

ACKERMAN
OHTA
VILANOVA
SINCLAIR

IRON MAN



MARVEL

THE INSURGENT IRON MAN

“Eases its way into One World Under Doom, with a new jumping-on point and a new challenge that tests Tony Stark’s resolve.” —AIPT

CONTINUING A BACK-TO-BASICS NEW ERA FOR **THE GOLDEN AVENGER!**

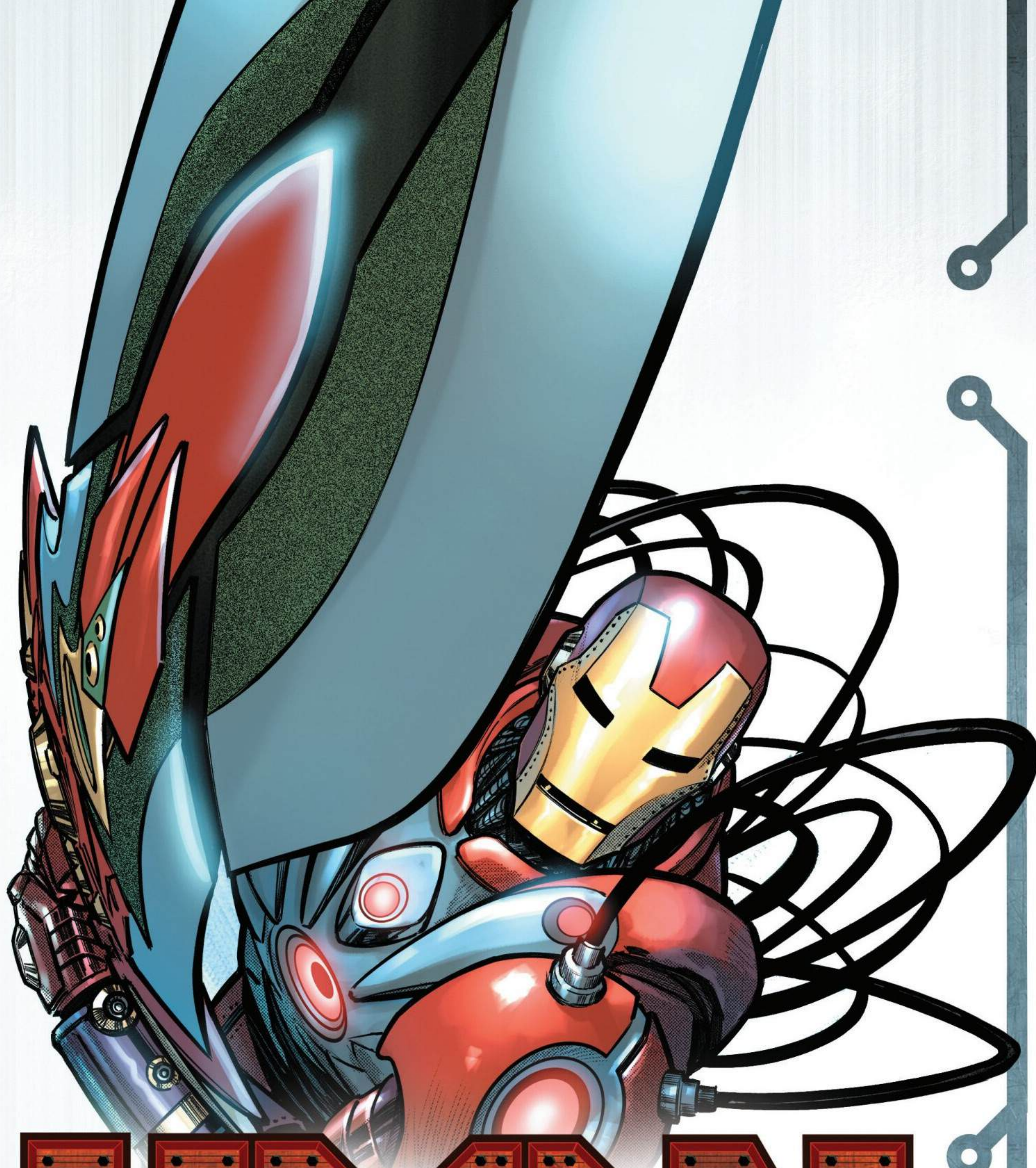
AFTER WITNESSING FIRSTHAND THE DEVASTATION OF WAR, Tony Stark famously divested his company from the weapons trade. Then Orchis and Feilong came along, and a furious Iron Man watched them dismantle his legacy. Now Stark Unlimited is going back to its roots as Tony publicly announces a full-scale return to weapons manufacturing! What?! Why is Iron Man meeting with rebels outside Latveria? Why is the Winter Guard after him (this time)? Why is Doctor Doom sending angry emissaries to Stark’s door? What in all hell is Tony Stark doing?! While the Avengers fight the world’s new emperor, Doom, on the public stage, Iron Man tries the insurgency route from inside Latveria. But can his former teammate, the Black Widow, trust his tactics?



COLLECTING **IRON MAN (2024) #6-10** — BY SPENCER ACKERMAN, JULIUS OHTA,
MICHAEL DOWLING, GUIU VILANOVA, ALEX SINCLAIR AND MICHAEL ATIYEH.

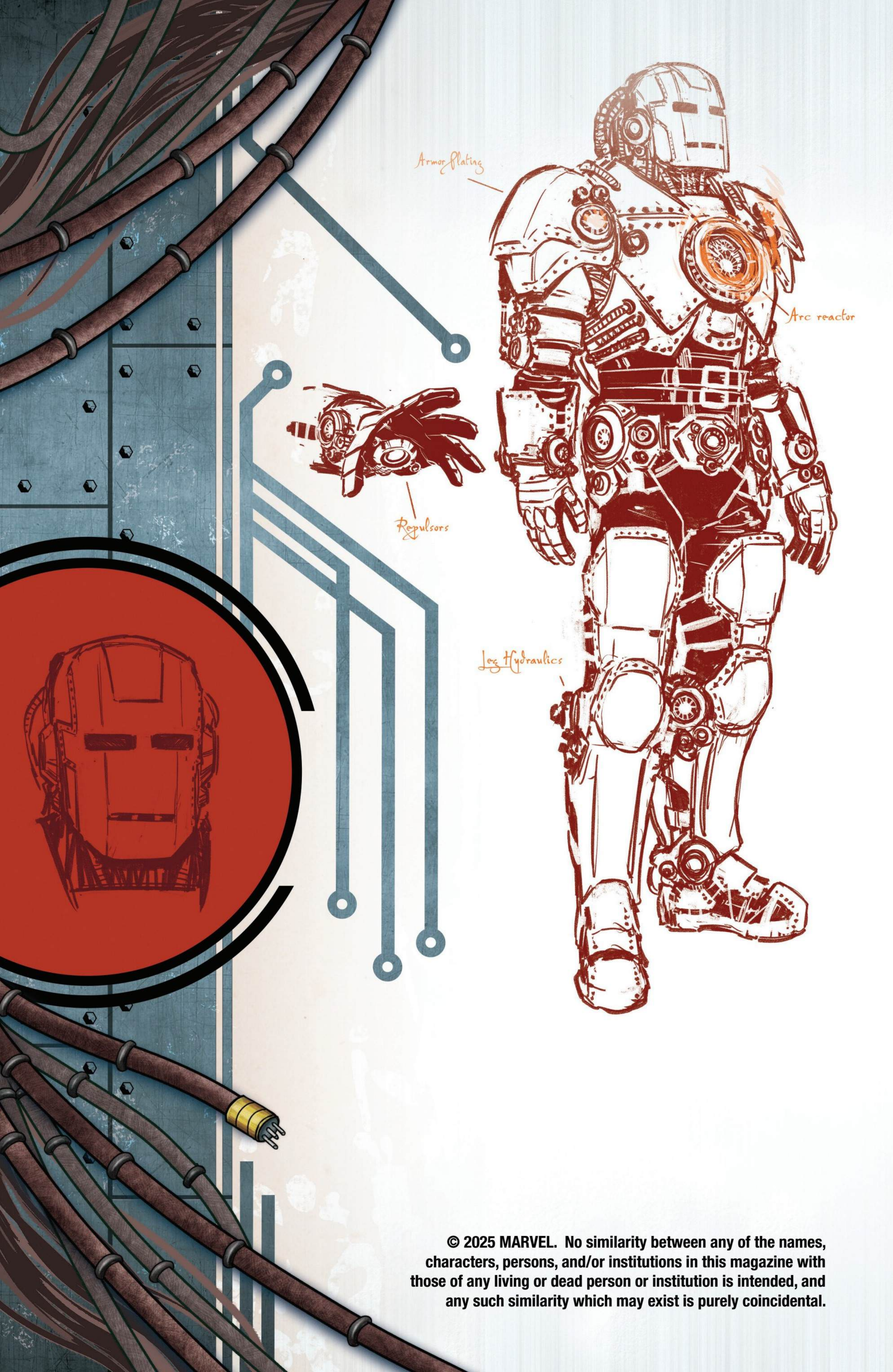
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MARVEL



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A magical virus has corrupted **Tony Stark's** entire arsenal of Iron Man suits, rendering them useless. The cleansing of such magical malware will take time and, more so, patience. Meanwhile, Tony has forged a new set of low-tech armor to stay in the field – with a giant sword to compensate!

After regaining control of Stark Unlimited, Tony's return marked a new goal for his company – to stay out of weapons manufacturing. However, when **Lucia Von Bardas** attempted to steal old Stark tech to avenge **Latveria**, Tony is reminded of an even bigger problem...one that affects the entire world.

Doctor Doom, having taken over the mantle of Sorcerer Supreme, has now declared himself ruler of a new United Latveria: Earth!

IRON MAN

THE INSURGENT IRON MAN

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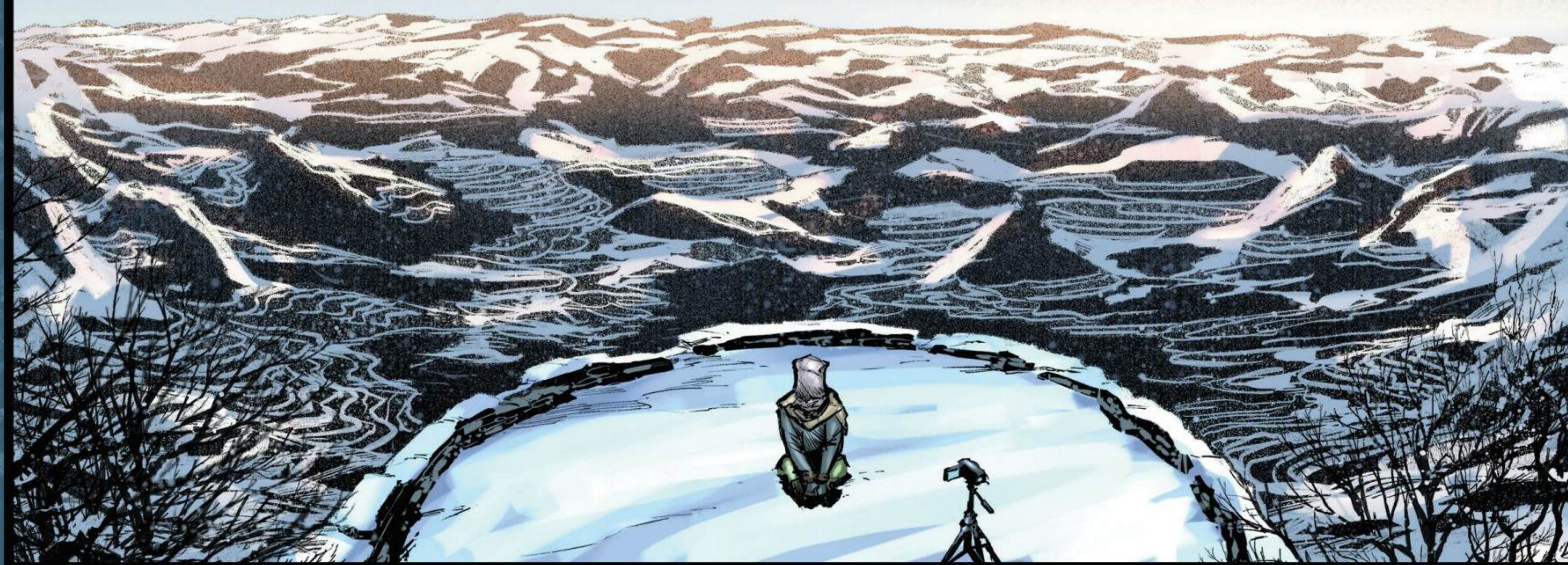
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SIX: ANOTHER MAN'S FREEDOM FIGHTER

 DAGESTAN,
RUSSIAN PROVINCE OF
UNITED LATVERIA.



Welcome,
Mister
Stark...





...in this room, we shall design a Free Latveria.



If I drank, commander...

...I'd drink to that.



Drink, do not drink,
no matter.

We will celebrate in
Doomstadt when we hang the
corpse of the mud-person
Victor Von Doom from a
lamppost.



That's not... There are
plenty of reasons to
oppose Doom that don't
have to do with his
background.

Let's stay
focused.



I can tell you
take *operational security*
seriously. There's no fire to
send smoke out of a chimney.
And that heater is too weak
to register a detectable
thermal signal.

It is no
matter.



If Doom trains
his eye on us, there
is nowhere we can hide.
That is the lesson of
Khamiskan.

Hiding is failure.
Hiding keeps Latveria on
its knees. The Latverian
Patriotic Front
hails *győzjelem*.
Victory.

Have you
brought us an
Iron Man suit
in that
briefcase?



My friend.
If you and I are
going to move
forward, you must
understand...
...that is
never going
to happen.



But I want to move
forward. So I brought
you something
better.
Something
to get the LPF
around *banking*
sanctions.
Oh?



It's the login to
a bottomless crypto
wallet. Imagine mining coins
at *arc reactor* speed. And the
currency tethers to a Stark
Unlimited-minted
stablecoin.
It should erase
any *Iron Man*-related
disappointment.



SK
RN
GH



Come
with me.



To destroy the subhuman *Von Doom*, I have taken on the name *Hunyadi*.

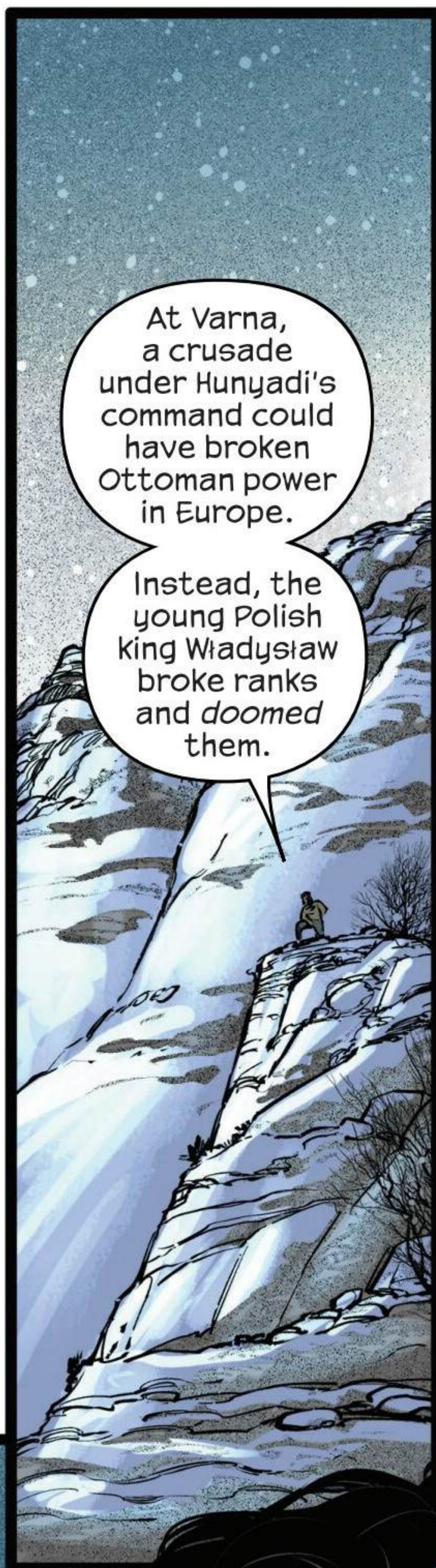
Do you know who John Hunyadi was?

I have a feeling you want to tell me.



Hunyadi was a great hero of 15th-century Hungary. The scourge of the overmighty Turk.

His only weakness was his *unsteady allies*.



At Varna, a crusade under Hunyadi's command could have broken Ottoman power in Europe.

Instead, the young Polish king Wladyslaw broke ranks and *doomed* them.



Wladyslaw died on the field. Hunyadi lived ten more years, cursed to see the Turk's son take Constantinople.

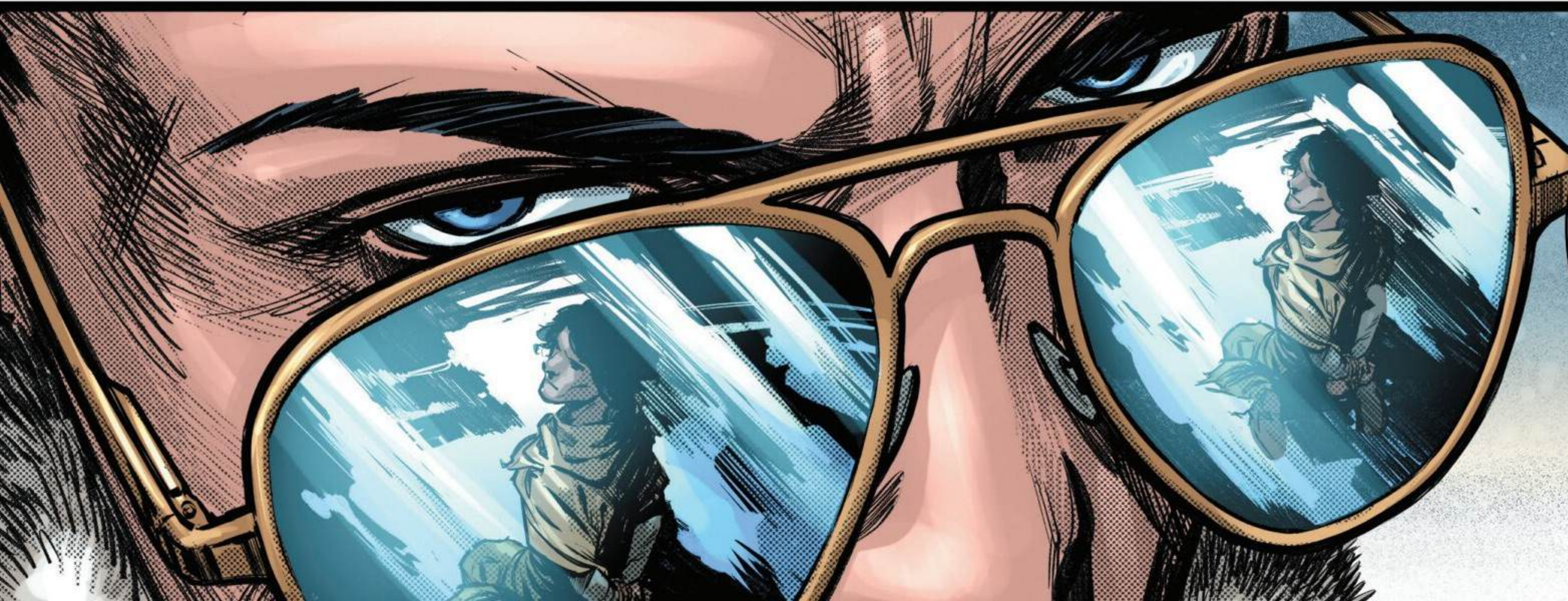
Hunyadi did not need wealth. There were always those who sponsored him. And who wished to *buy* him.



This is *Vishte Taru*.

~Gasp~

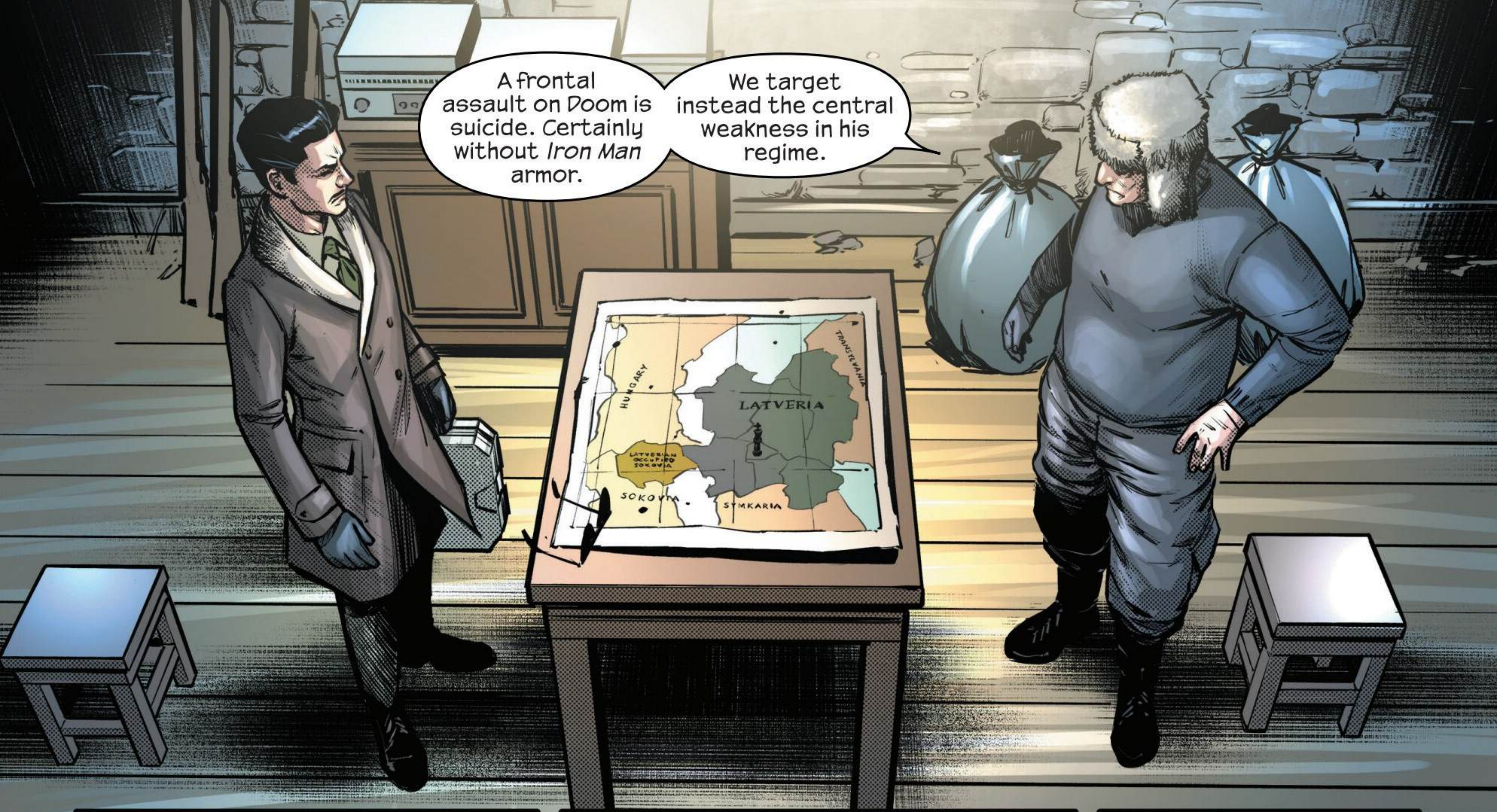
He was LPF. Until he broke ranks and cultivated a *forbidden power*.



If we are to stand together against the might of a *Von Doom* who bestrides the globe, I must know *you* will not break ranks, *Iron Man*.

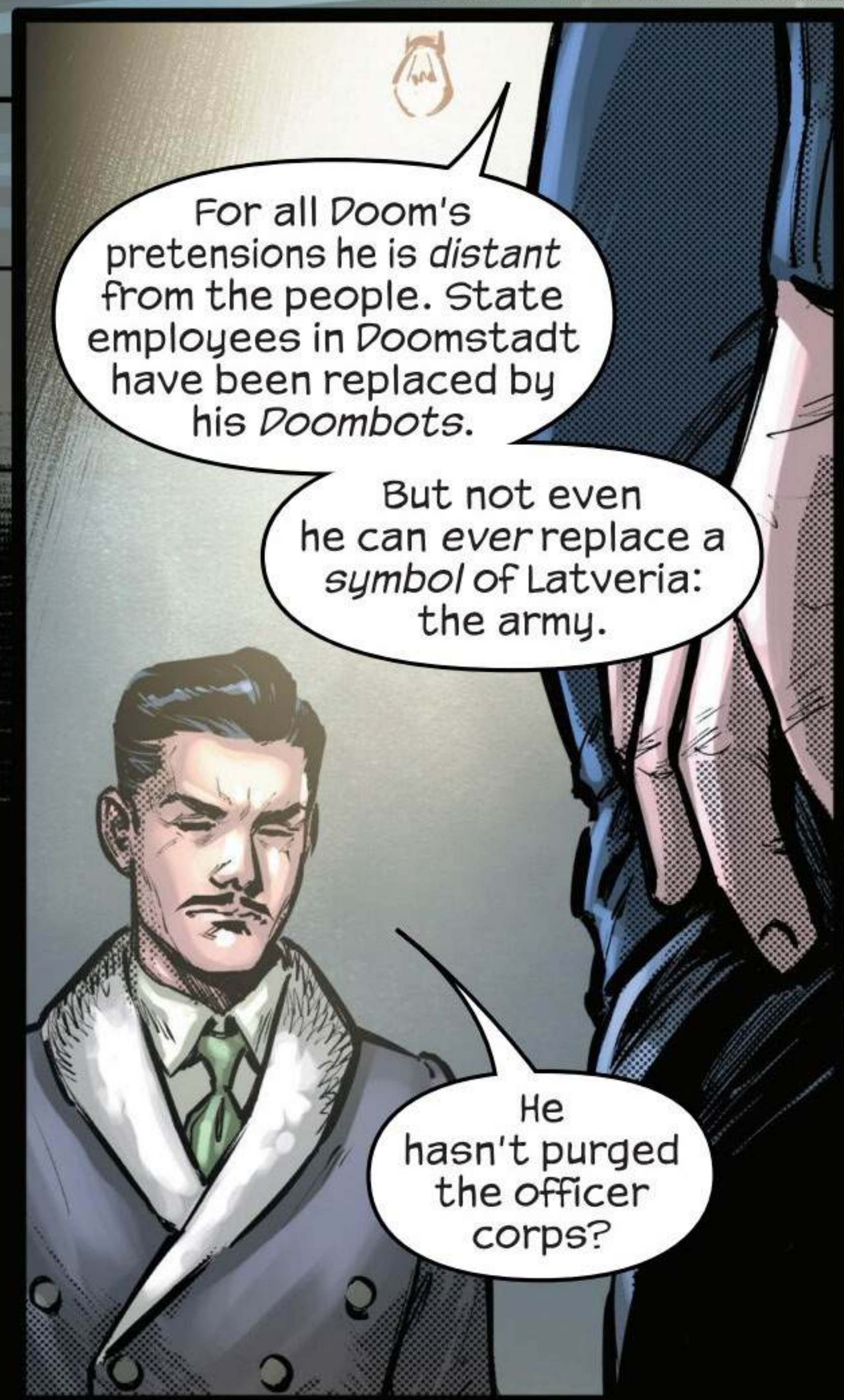
Draw your sword and kill young *Vishte*.





A frontal assault on Doom is suicide. Certainly without Iron Man armor.

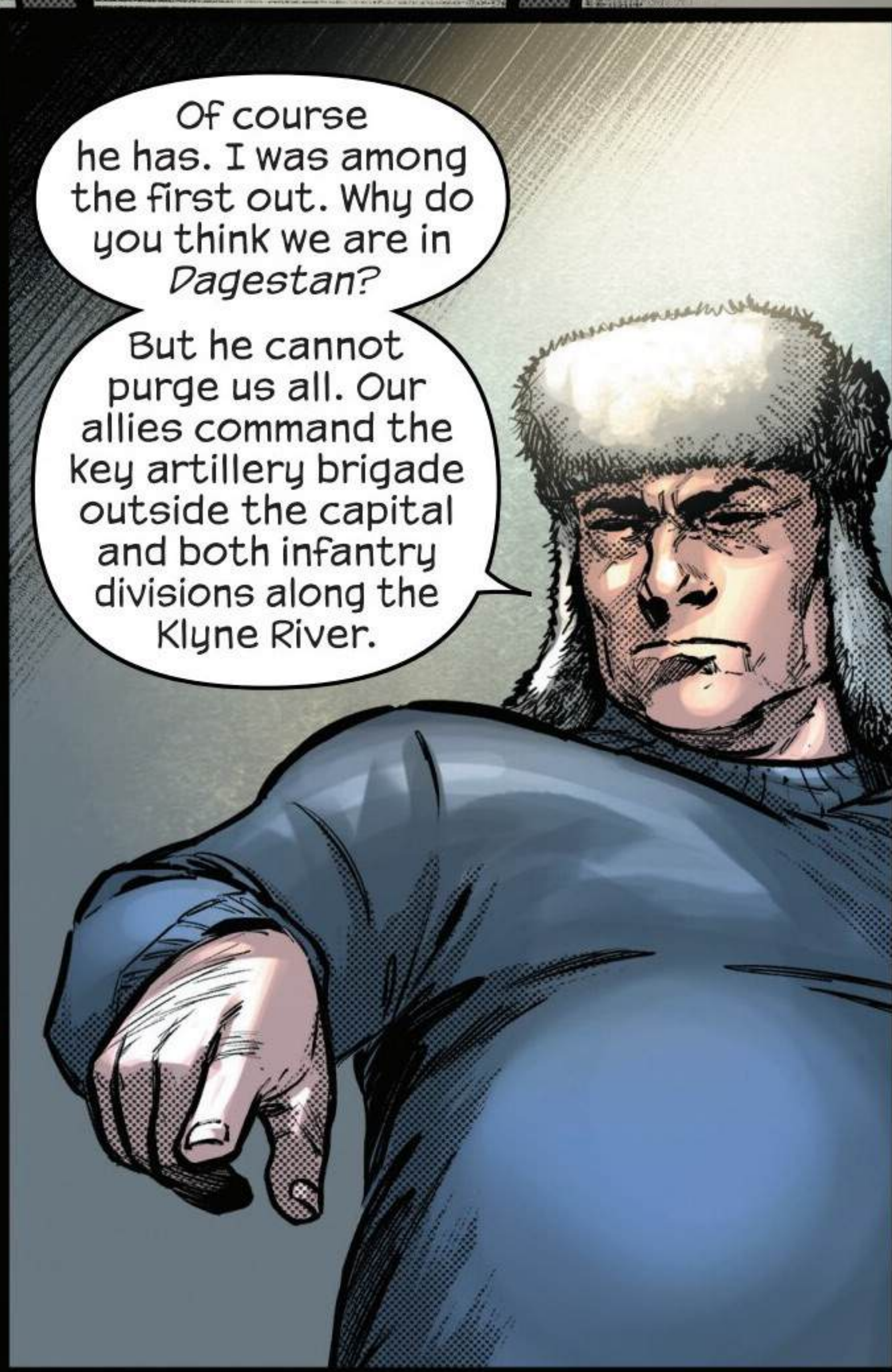
We target instead the central weakness in his regime.



For all Doom's pretensions he is *distant* from the people. State employees in Doomstadt have been replaced by his *Doombots*.

But not even he can ever replace a *symbol* of Latveria: the army.

He hasn't purged the officer corps?



Of course he has. I was among the first out. Why do you think we are in *Dagestan*?

But he cannot purge us all. Our allies command the key artillery brigade outside the capital and both infantry divisions along the Klyne River.



Alas, we have no allies in the *armor* branch.



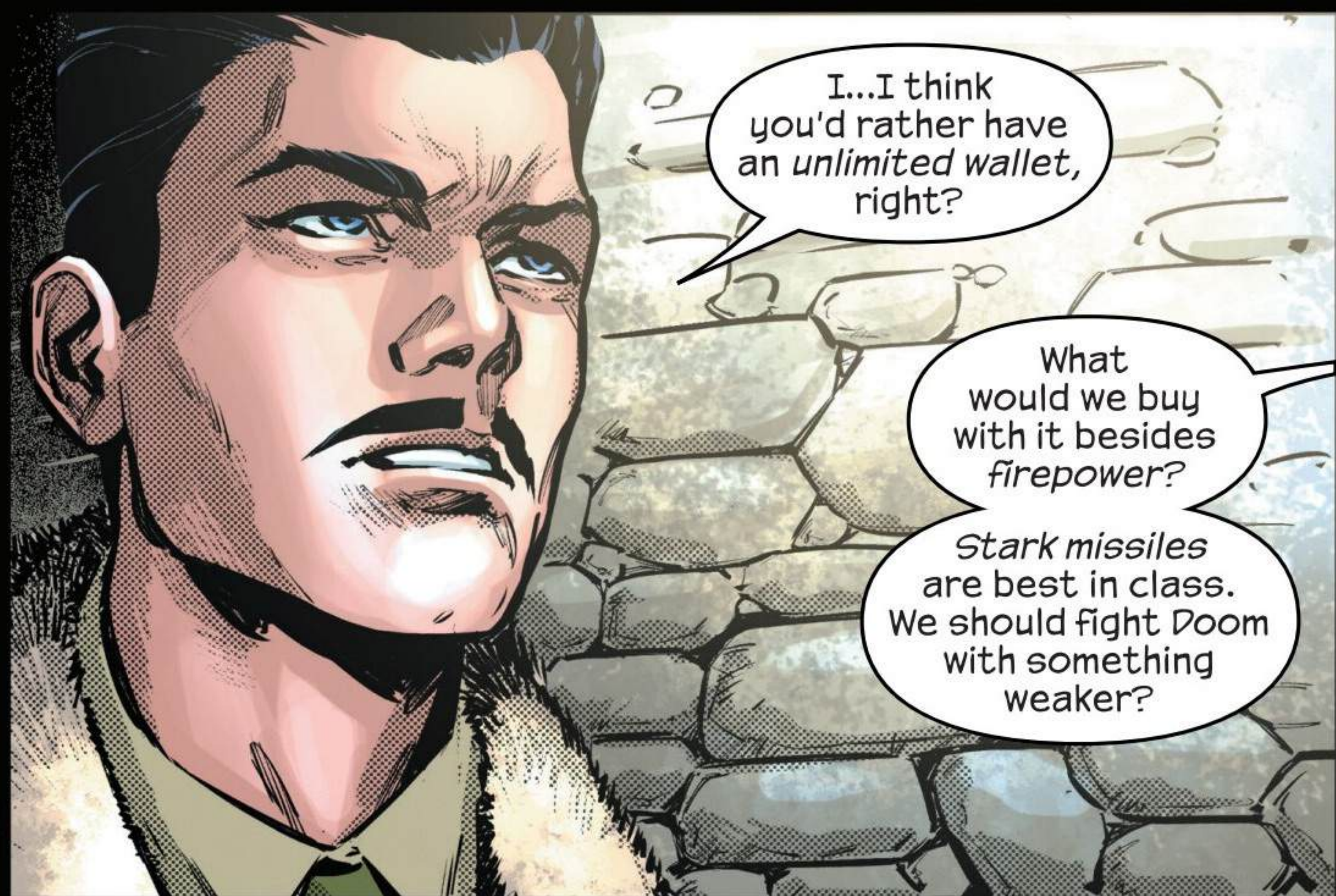
What about Latveria's air force?

No more. His robots are all that patrol the skies.

But no matter. All we need is for the 1st Artillery to come into possession of superior missiles.



Stark missiles.



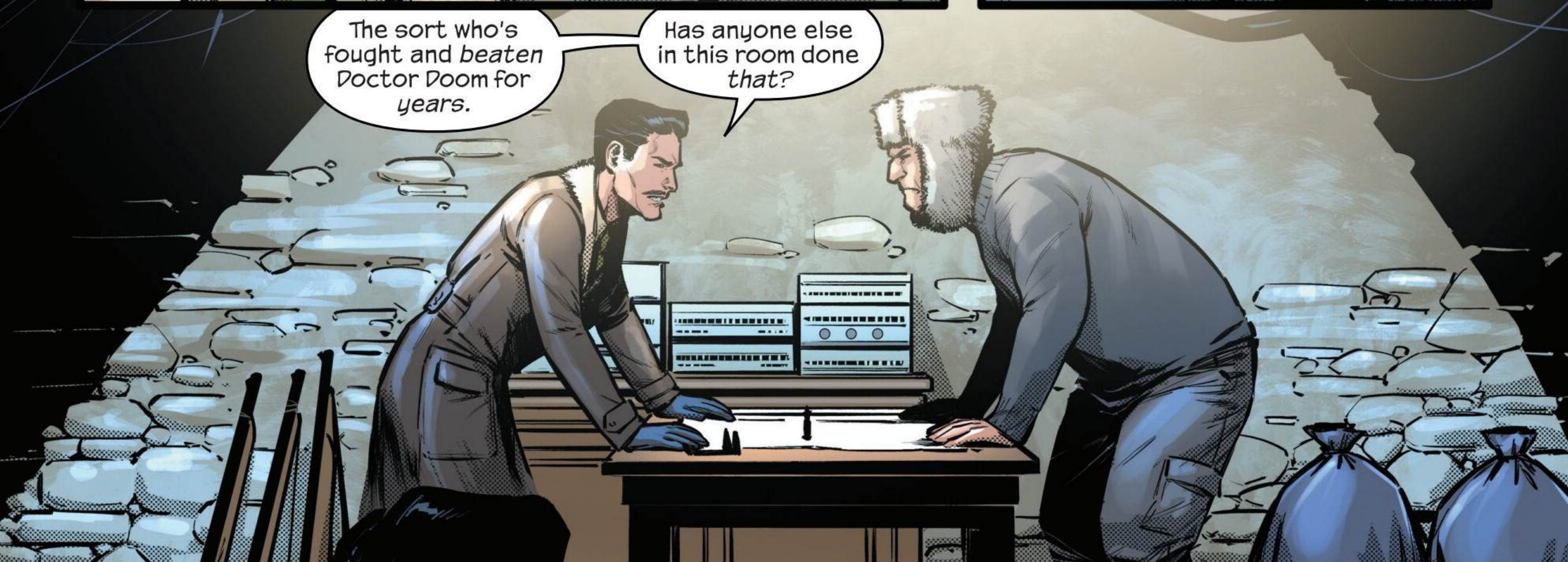
I...I think you'd rather have an *unlimited wallet*, right?

What would we buy with it besides *firepower*?

Stark missiles are best in class. We should fight Doom with something weaker?



What sort of *ally* would propose such a thing?



The sort who's fought and *beaten* Doctor Doom for years.

Has anyone else in this room done *that*?

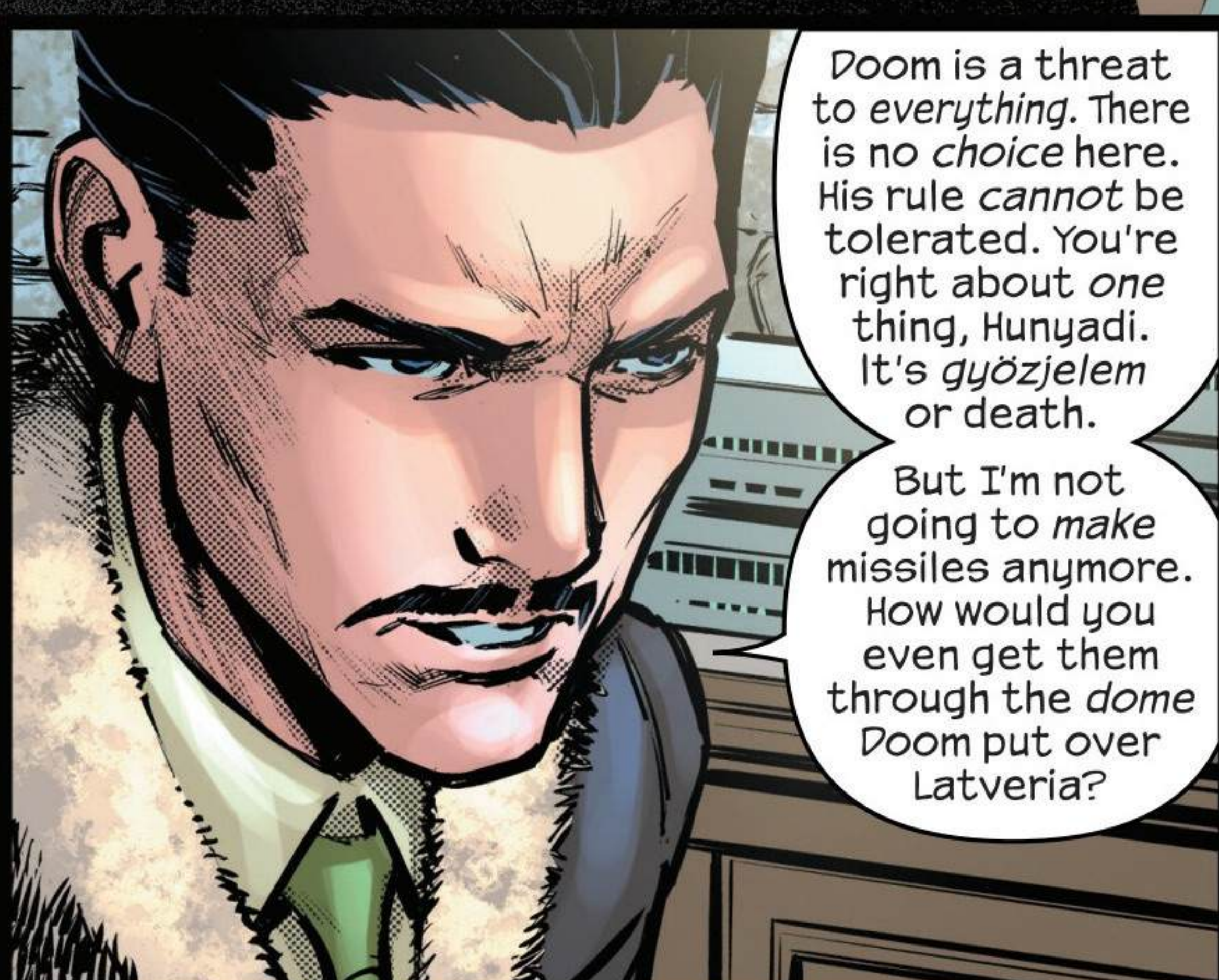


I smuggled myself onto *Russian territory* to talk with a *Latverian opposition militia*.

Army.

Opposition army. If Doom finds us, I'm a dead man. *Fine*.

Victor Von Doom cannot remain *global emperor*.



Doom is a threat to *everything*. There is no *choice* here. His rule *cannot* be tolerated. You're right about *one* thing, Hunyadi. It's *győzjelem* or death.

But I'm not going to *make* missiles anymore. How would you even get them through the *dome* Doom put over Latveria?



You would not give missiles to *us*.

You would *sell* missiles to *Doctor Doom*.



Your plan...
is for me...

...to arm
Doom???

The missiles
will reside in
the depots of
our allies.

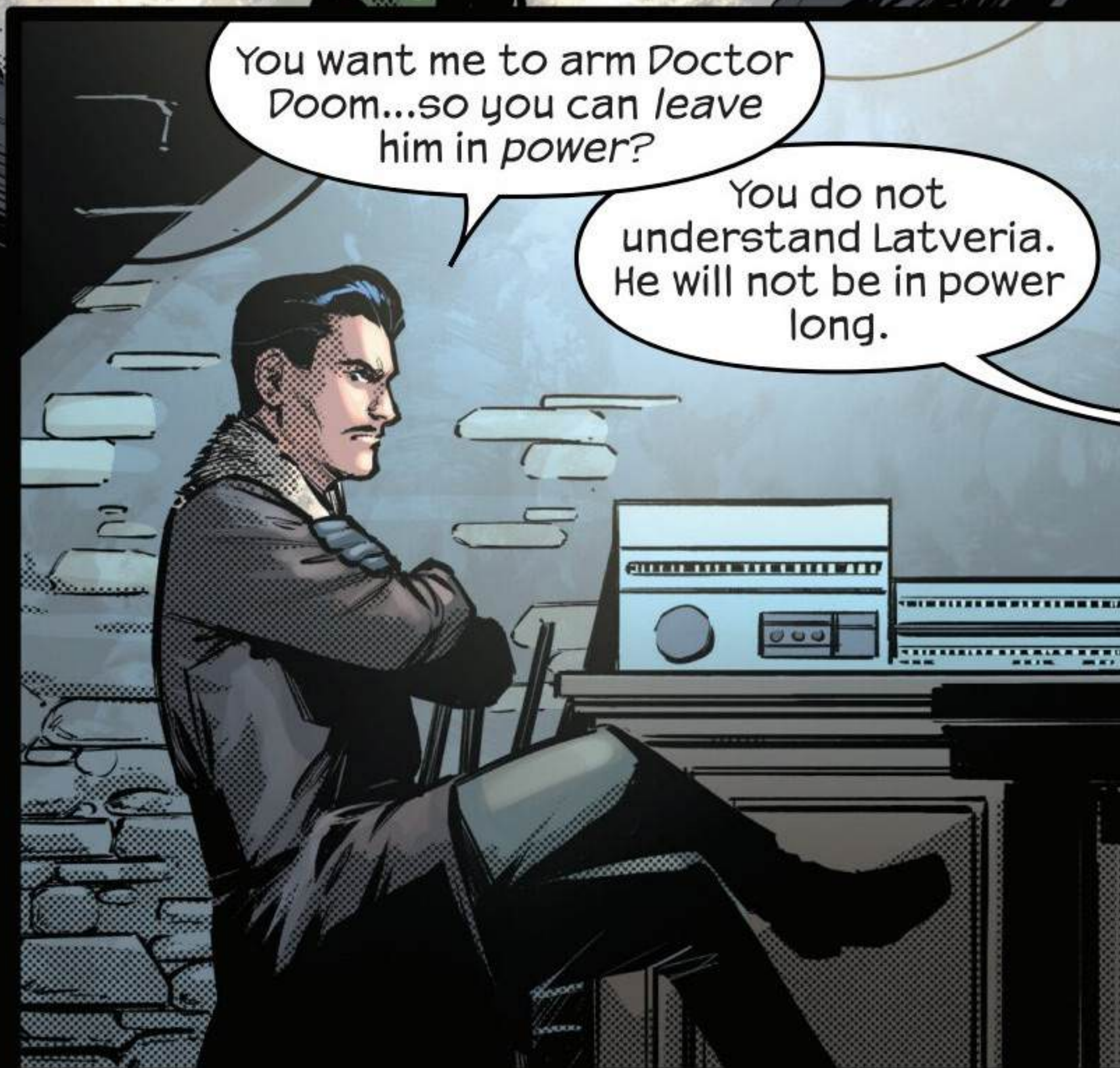


1st Artillery will ring
Doomstadt at its three
outbound roads. Our infantry
marches upriver to show the
people the army is *theirs*,
not Doom's.



Doomstadt can
withstand a siege. The
tyrant is a *mage*. He will
conjure supplies.

That is the point.
We geld the beast by
locking him in his den.
He cannot *break* a siege.
Beyond Doomstadt,
we rule.



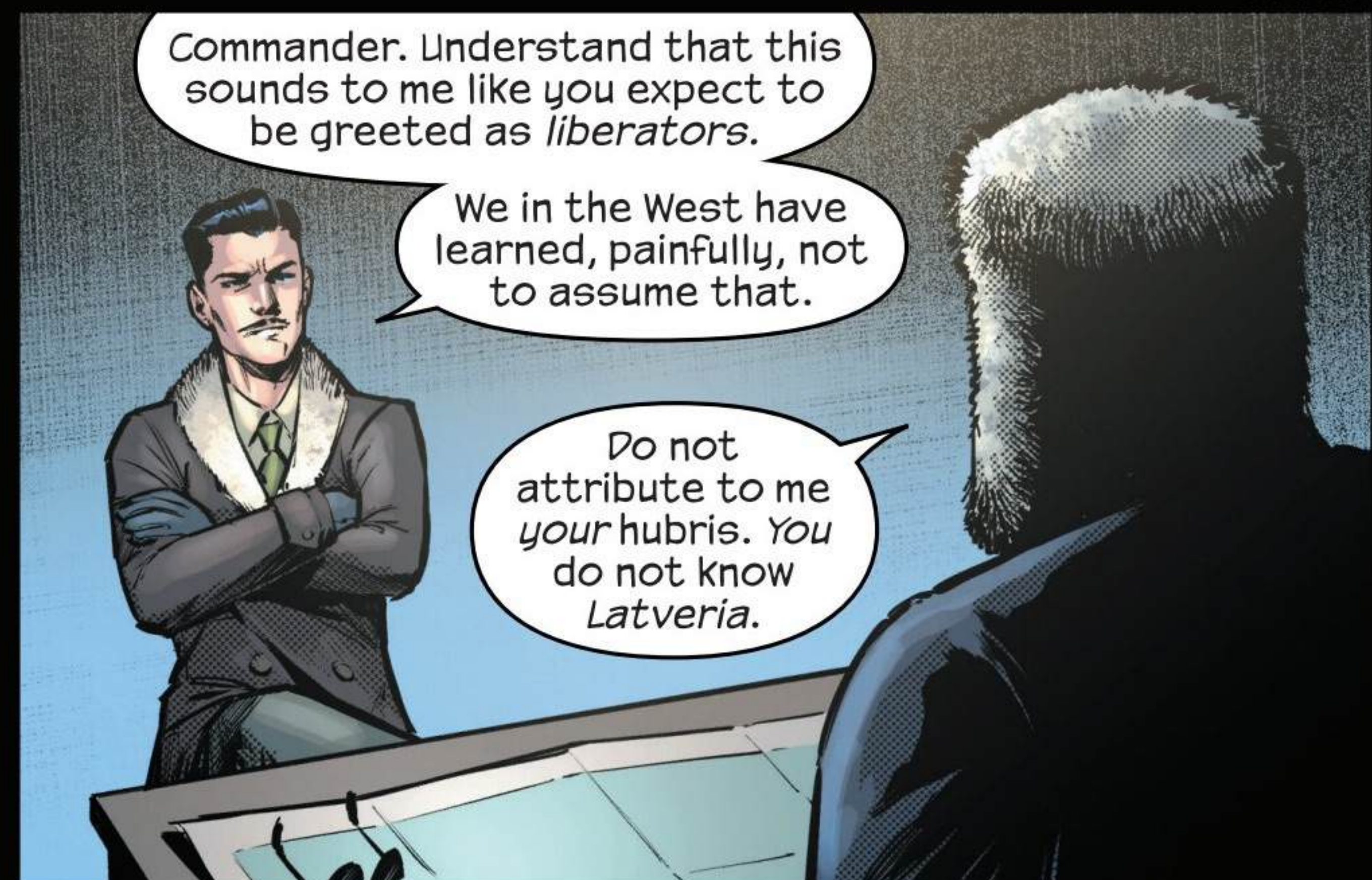
You want me to arm Doctor
Doom...so you can leave
him in power?

You do not
understand Latveria.
He will not be in power
long.



Latveria is not the West.
The people of Doomstadt
will find separation from
their heartlands and their
army unbearable. And
blame *Doom*.

Not even Doom
can escape such a
trap. Certainly not
with his current
propaganda of
liberation.



Commander. Understand that this
sounds to me like you expect to
be greeted as *liberators*.

We in the West have
learned, painfully, not
to assume that.

Do not
attribute to me
your hubris. You
do not know
Latveria.



The people
long for their army,
not their tyrant's
machines.

They will give
Doomstadt to us.
Until they do, we
need only hold
steady.



You can hold out for a long siege?

It may require us to draw on your *unlimited wallet*. But no matter. We can.



I'm going to be honest with you. I'm not comfortable with this. I'm trying to get out of the weapons business *entirely*.

What does your *comfort* have to do with--?



Iron Man!

For defiling
the motherland--
the United Latverian
Provinces of All the
Russias--

--for
collaborating with
fascist traitors to
our Emperor
Doom--

--today an
Avenger dies--

--at the
hands of the

**WINTER
GUARD**



Comrades!
His weakened armor
will be in that
brief--

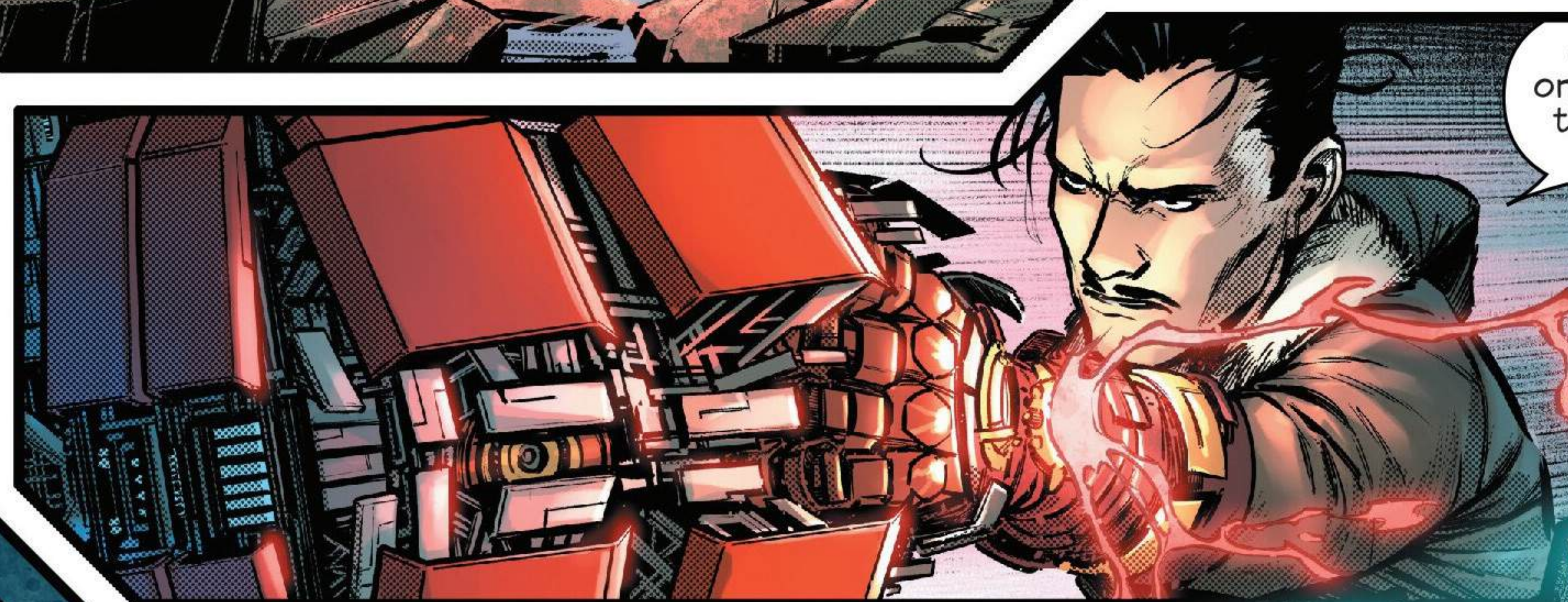


Dimitri, send me
your schedule after
this--

Whumpf!



--I want you
on a podcast I'm
thinking about
launching...

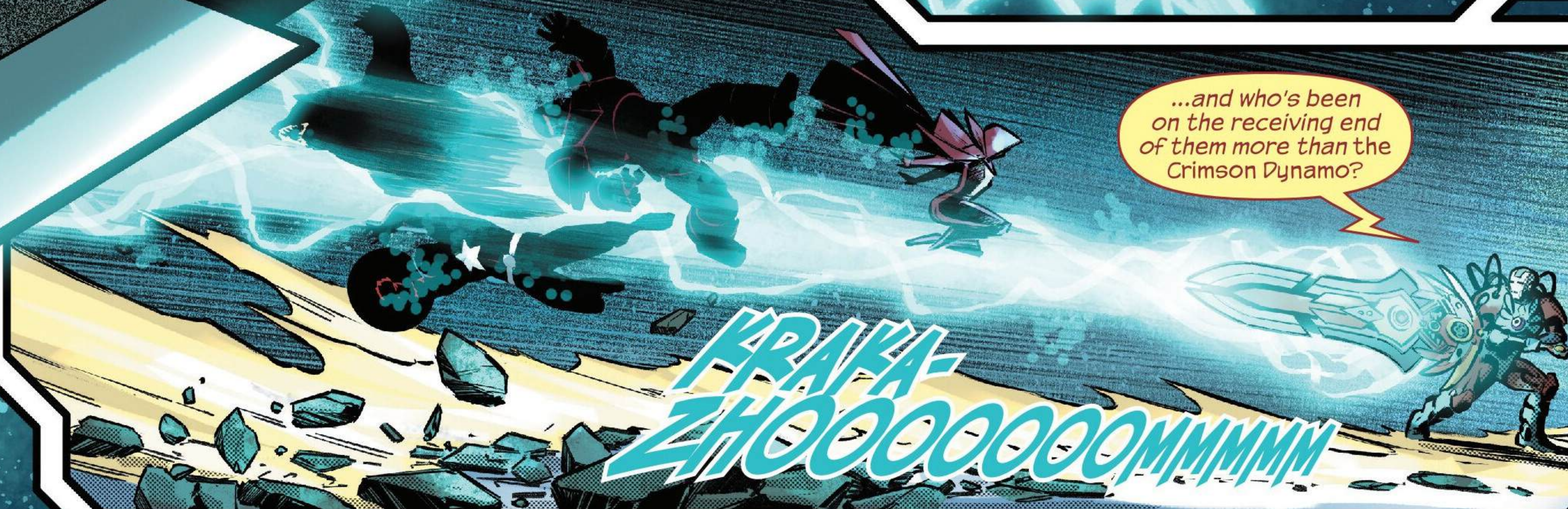


...it's called
the Iterative
Iron Man.

I'll talk through
my thought process
behind each of my
armor upgrades...



...and who's been
on the receiving end
of them more than the
Crimson Dynamo?





<It's her!
The motherland's
greatest traitor
since Mitrokhin!>*

<Vanguard!
Crimson Dynamo!
Iron Man is a secondary
objective for the
remainder of the
mission!>

<Kill the
**BLACK
WIDOW!**>

Nat! What
are you doing
here?!

*Translated from Russian.



Saving you from
yourself.

What?

We'll talk
about it on the
Quinjet. Bank
northwest.

That rifle had
a shallow energy
magazine. My bites
will have to fend
off Dimitri and
Nikolai.

Not
necessarily.



Can you
reach my sword?
Kind of an awkward
angle for
me.

<Natalia
Romanova!!! You are to
surrender to the sworn
protectors of your
motherland!>



No matter.

Now, Commander Hunyadi, you must leave Dagestan at once. I will not be able to protect you on the soil of the United Latverian Provinces of All the Russias.

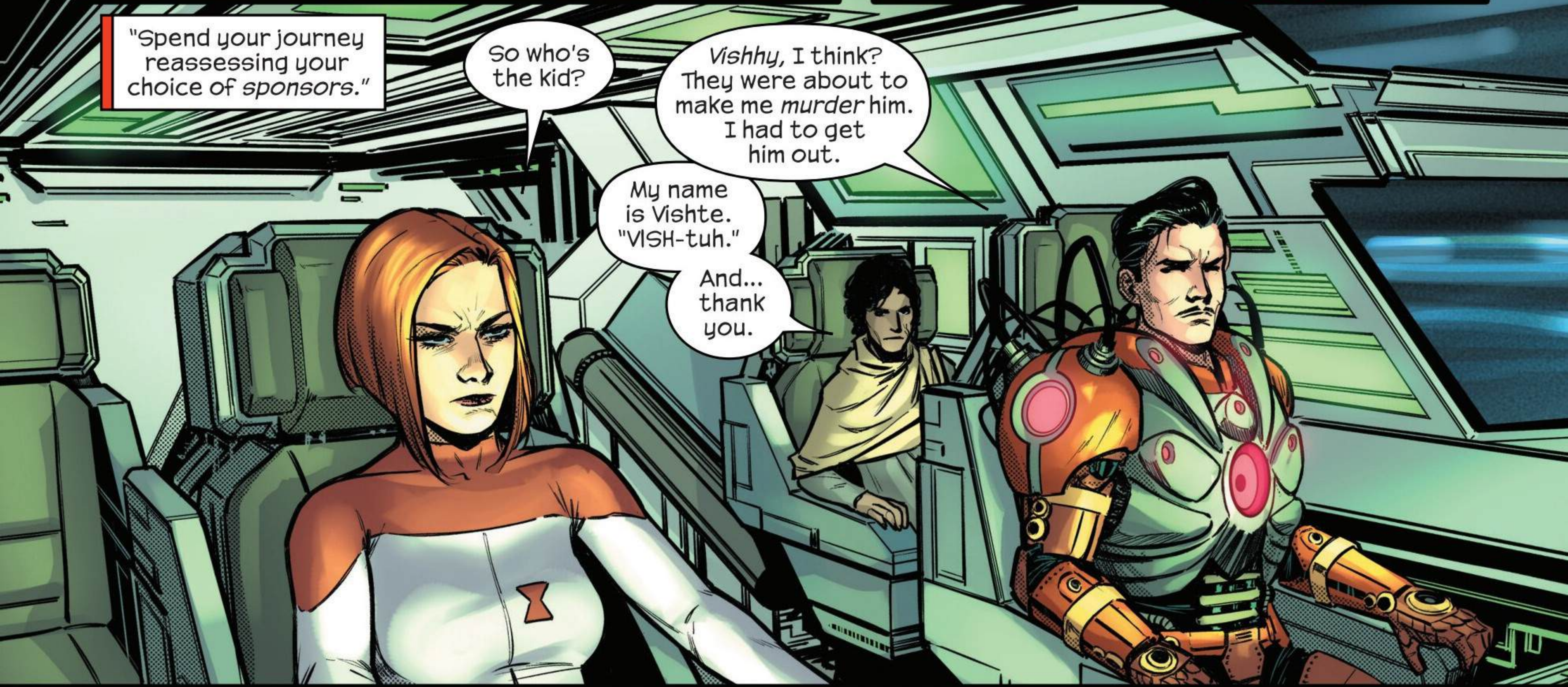
But know this...



Should you make your deal with Iron Man, you will *never* reign over Latveria.

Russia will never tolerate NATO influence on Latverian soil and will act through Latverians who agree.

Latveria will never know *peace* this way.



"Spend your journey reassessing your choice of *sponsors*."

So who's the kid?

Vishhy, I think? They were about to make me *murder* him. I had to get him out.

My name is Vishte. "VISH-tuh."

And... thank you.



So he's a witness to your little Dagestan *sit-down*...

...will he be free to go when I drop you off?

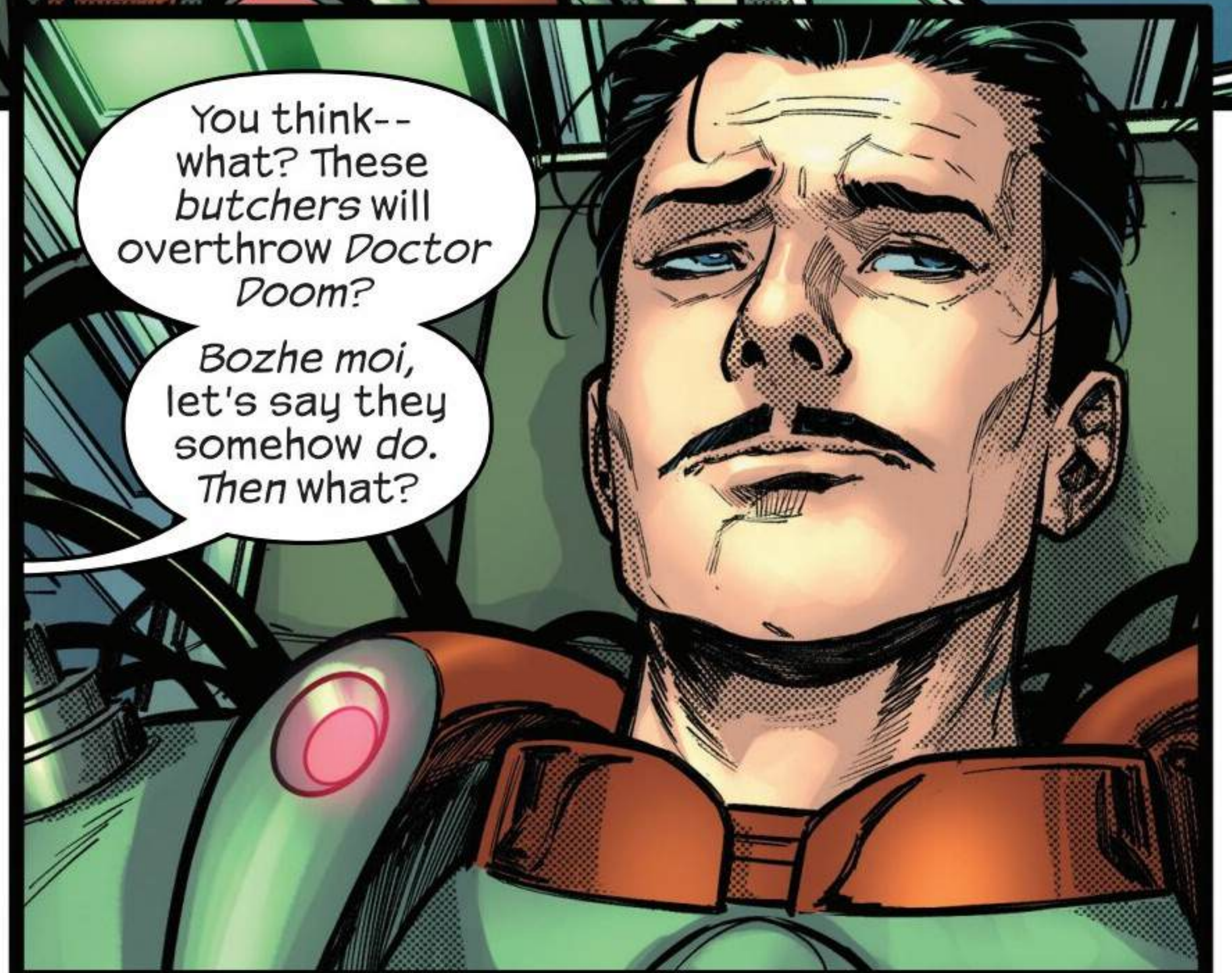
Of course he'll be, Nat. How long have we known each other?



Well, that's the thing, Tony. I don't *recognize* your behavior here...

...or, if I *do*, it's because I know your *warning signs*.

You were about to sponsor a *terrorist group*. Vishte wouldn't have been the first *child* they've killed.



You think-- what? These *butchers* will overthrow *Doctor Doom*?

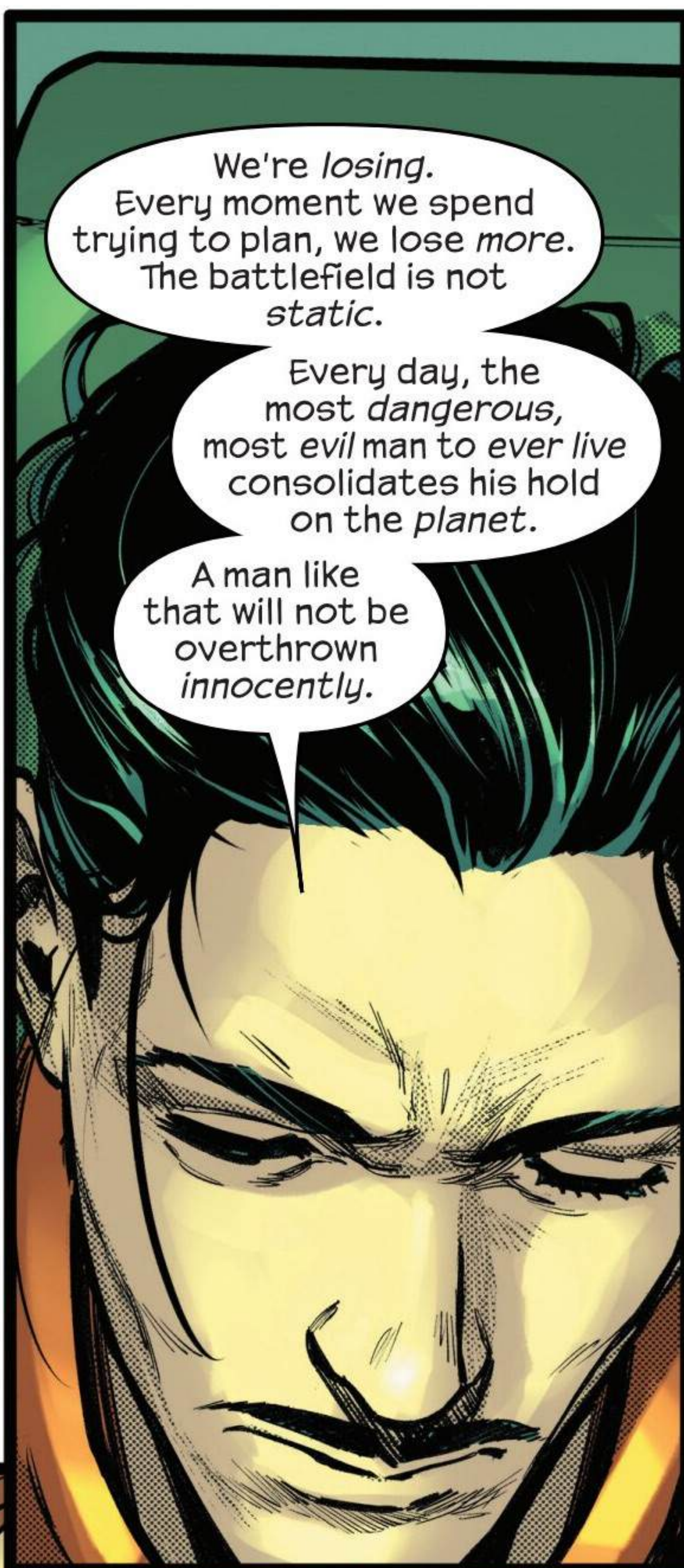
Bozhe moi, let's say they somehow *do*. Then what?



You're my friend and I care about you.

Let's stick to the plans we're making with the Avengers. And we'll win, like we always do.

Will we?



We're *losing*. Every moment we spend trying to plan, we lose *more*. The battlefield is not *static*.

Every day, the most *dangerous*, most *evil* man to ever live consolidates his hold on the *planet*.

A man like that will not be overthrown *innocently*.



Yes...

Doom has destabilized us. We have to destabilize *him*.

You're right about the LPF. But they're the only Latverian opposition now.

If *Latverians* rise up, we shatter his illusion. He'll be a *tyrant* again, not a savior. It's the *only way* we even get *time* back on the clock for *whatever* we'll do as Avengers.



Tony, stop right there.

You have no idea what it means to destabilize governments. I do.

And every day of my life I wish I didn't.



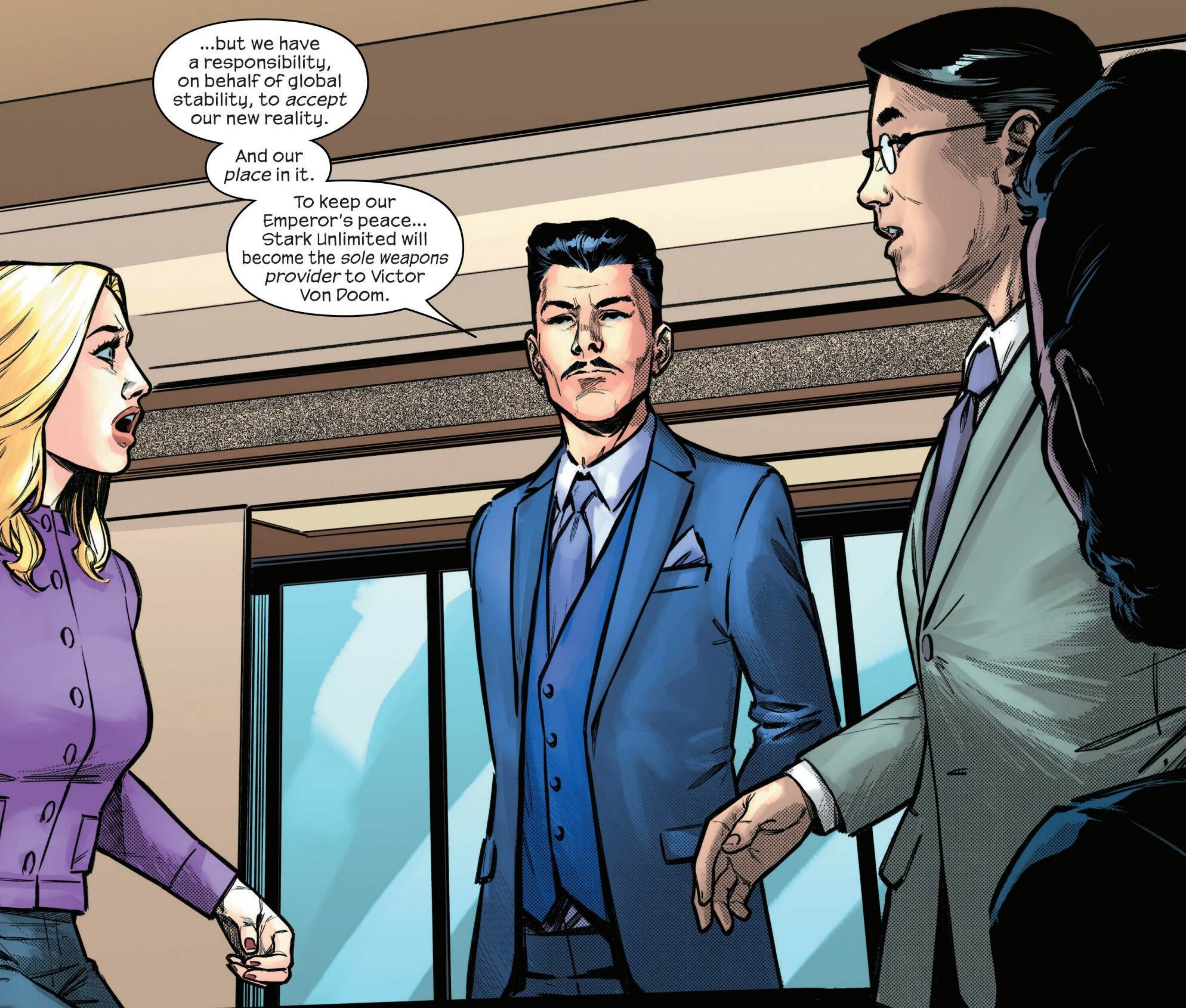
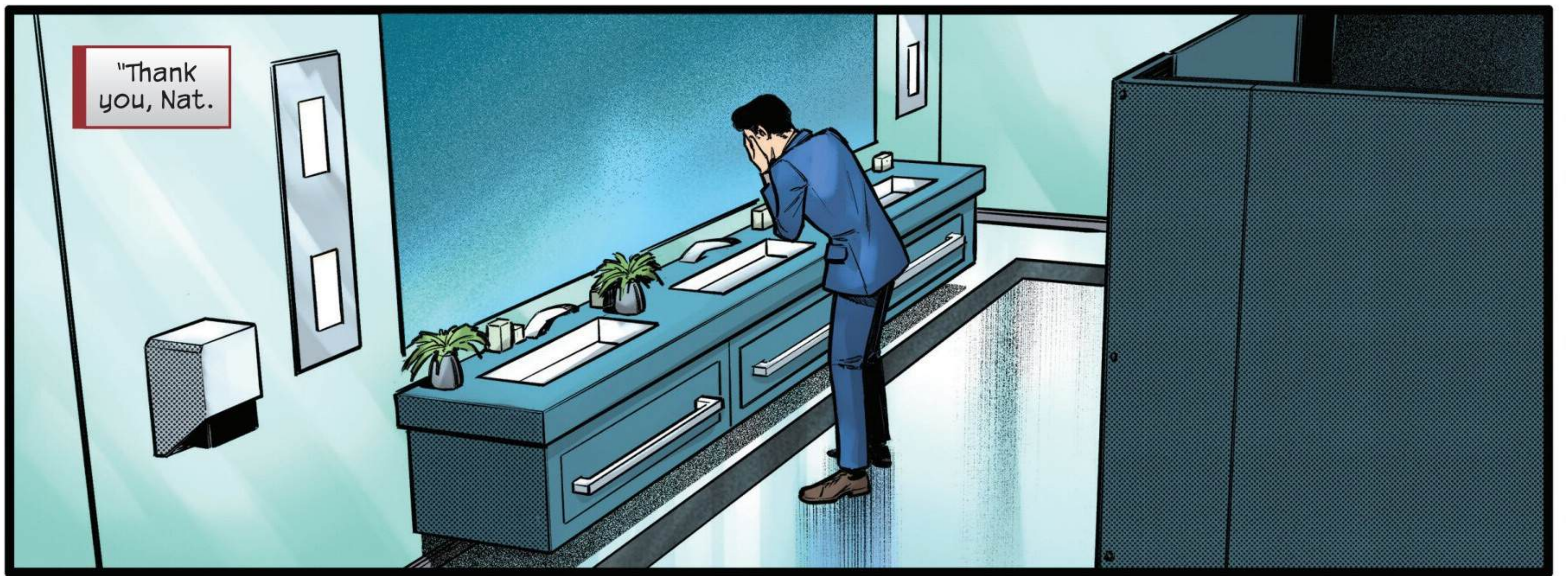
...I know that's true, Nat. Everything you're saying.

Just... give me a better plan...

I'll give you the *best* plan of *all*...



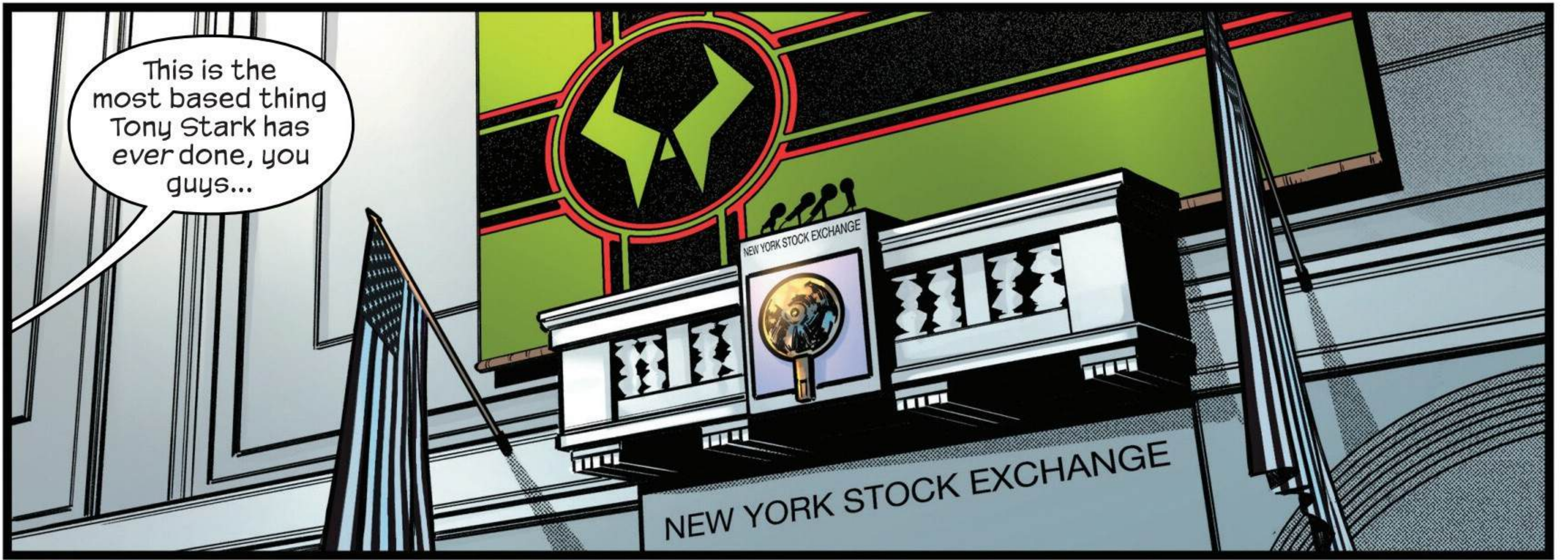
...keep your *faith* in Earth's Mightiest Heroes.







SEVEN: BOW DOWN TO YOUR DOOM







You're gonna make us a lot of money, Iron Man!

Beers on us in Murray Hill when? Ha ha!

Careful, Tone! It's not cool to run a big corporation out here!



Even the briefcase drippy!



Wait, is that...



...broooooo, he brought out the classics for this!



My man got that \$%&# on!



Mr. Tony STARK, I am the scheduler for the Latverian Provincial Governor of the Atlantic Seaboard and must urgently request a

NAT

Tony, when we talked about not arming the Latverian Patriotic Front, this wasn't exactly what I had in mind. Call me



MELINDA (THE CAVALRY) MAY
r u fn kidding me w this bs



Tony!

If you recall, you *insulted* me, *threatened* me, took me to a *Hell dimension*--

Melinda, just--

--blocked my *kill shot* in the *Hell dimension*--

Melinda--

--and then *fired* me, all to *stop* this company from *making weapons*--

I know it's not your point, but Justine Hammer took us to the *Hell dimension*--

--oh, and you definitely don't respect me as your head of security--

Melinda, it's not that, please just--

"It's not that"? What am I supposed to think when I have to learn--from TV!--that despite the last few weeks, whoops, never mind, we're making weapons after all!

And we're going to do this after Doctor Doom declares himself emperor? Are you having an episode?

Hey! Okay! I get it, I should have looped you in! But there's a *whole lot*--

I'm entitled to know if you're declaring war on Doctor Doom--do you understand that?

A lot of people work for you. That's the kind of thing that affects us.

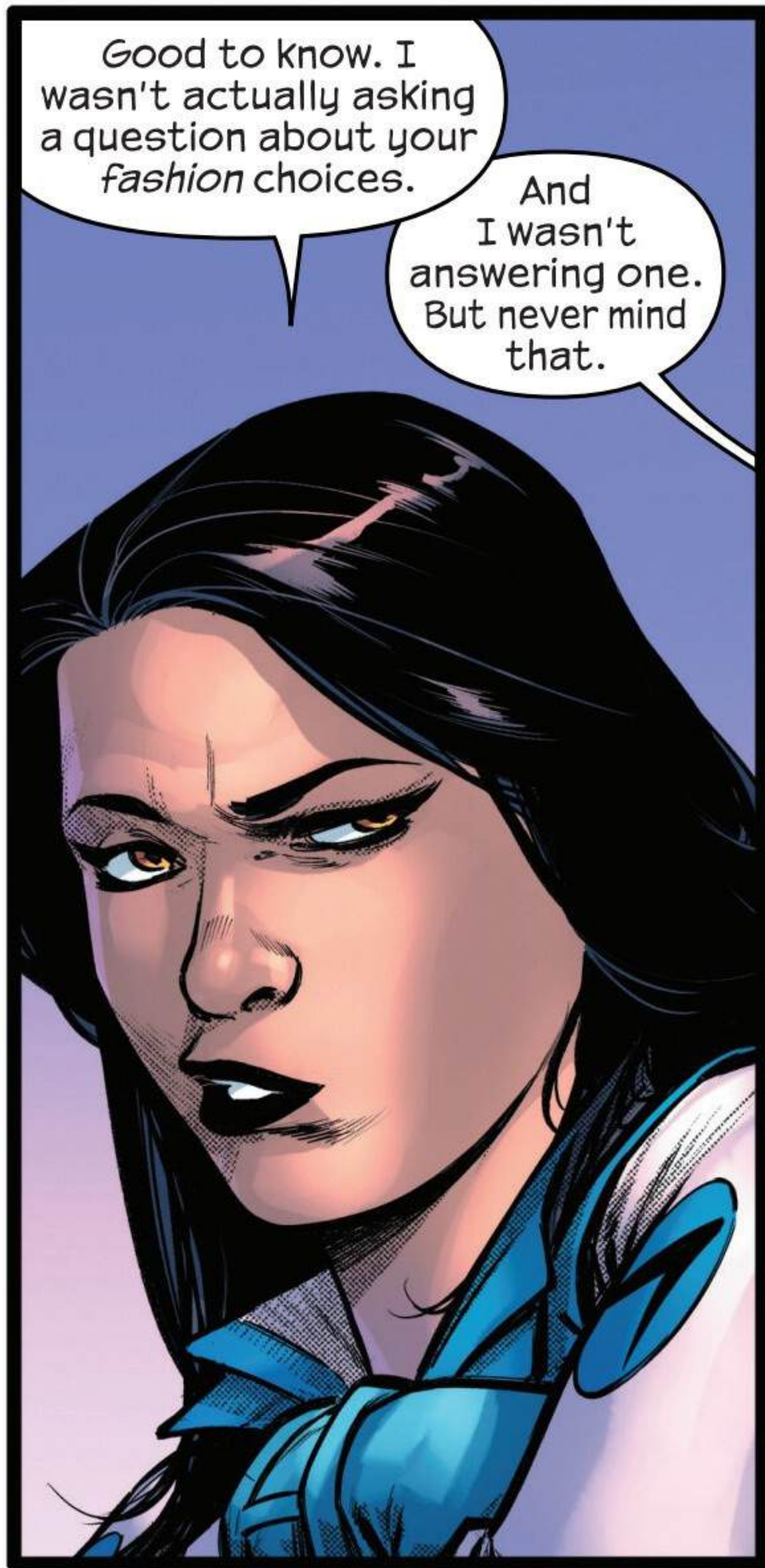
That thing can fly, but it can't send a text?

Actually, what are you even *wearing*? I thought you made your *dumpster-dive armor* because all your *real Iron Man suits* were broken!

Not the *Silver Centurion*. It was offline when Justine got her magic malware onto the servers. I've been wearing it for a thing out west.*

Now I'll need to wear it here sometimes.

*See the current *West Coast Avengers* series.





This is a map of Latveria. Tony...is this an away mission?

And who is this?

My name is Vishte Taru, Ms. May.



How does he know my name and I don't know his, Tony?!

Vishte just got here. He's teaching me a lot about Latveria. I'm onboarding him as a consultant.

Meet the Latverian Patriotic Front.



They're an... insurgent group.

I'm familiar. You mean a terrorist group.

Either way, they're the only organized Latverian opposition to Doctor Doom.

And they have the allegiance of officers commanding key elements of the Latverian Army.



So that's what this is? Stark Unlimited is going to sponsor a coup against Doctor Doom?

Not exactly. As you know, Doom has encased Latveria in a mystical dome. We have no visibility on the inside.

Luckily, we need none. We need only rely on Doom.

On his need to do what *all* empires do: bring resources in from the periphery.



This has what to do with us arming a Latverian terrorist group?

So that's the thing. We're not.



We're going to arm Doctor Doom.



Because... let me see if I follow this...the units that get the weapons... are controlled by the Latverian Patriotic Front.

Wow, Tony. I mean, that's insane, but wow. Can they win?

So this is the messy part, and the part they don't know...



We don't need the LPF to win. We don't particularly want them to win. We need them to fight a long war.

Months. Years, if that's what it takes. That is victory. If Doom can't hold Latveria, he can't hold the world.

That's where you come in.



I need you to be my liaison to the LPF. I can't interact with them if I'm going to pull off my part of the plan.

Sounds like Black Widow work. Why me? I'm not even an Avenger.



The Avengers don't know about this. They can't. And they won't.

Nat knows. She's warned me against it. I lied and told her I wouldn't. So...



...So you need someone who can beat the #\$\$%& out of Black Widow.

I would have put it in terms of needing a legendary S.H.I.E.L.D. agent, but... yeah.

You son of a so-and-so.

I'm in.



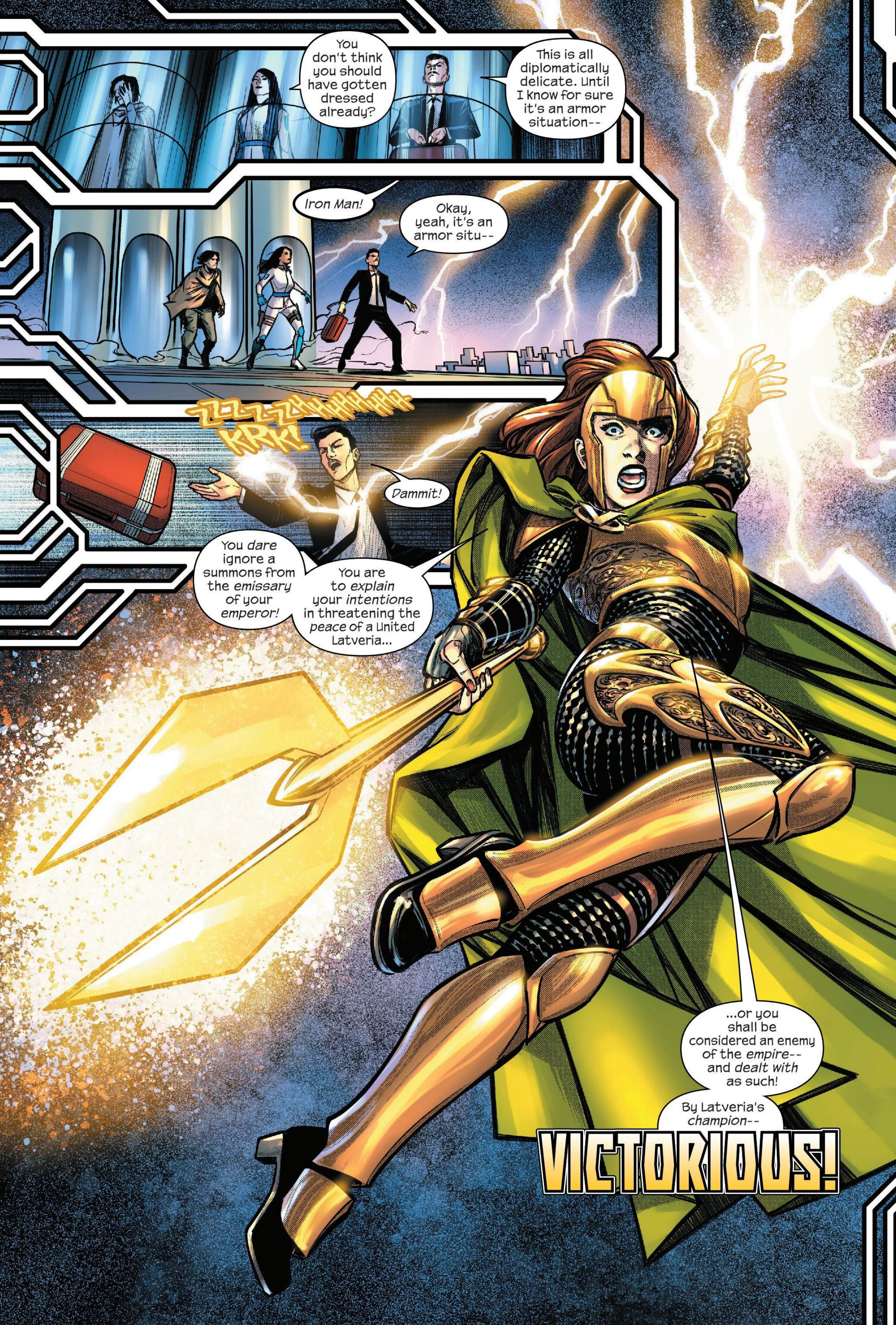
If it was anyone other than Doom, I'd report you to the F.B.I.

But Doom is a threat to everything. There's no choice here. And I'll be damned if I don't do my part... Director Stark.

But one thing I don't get. Why would Doom buy your weapons? He'll never tru--

UHHNNH! He is...here!

Doom is come!



You don't think you should have gotten dressed already?

This is all diplomatically delicate. Until I know for sure it's an armor situation--

Iron Man!

Okay, yeah, it's an armor situ--

Darnit!

You dare ignore a summons from the emissary of your emperor!

You are to explain your intentions in threatening the peace of a United Latveria...

...or you shall be considered an enemy of the empire-- and dealt with as such!

By Latveria's champion--

VICTORIOUS!



Darnit! Vish, I need that briefcase back.

Melinda, let me know when you're at zero bars...

...I'm gonna have to jam every cell signal in Greenwich Village before the Avengers see the upgraded armor.

Tony, I'm not getting a signal!

All right then, Victorious--

Your fate is chosen, Iron Man!

Yield, Zora Vukovic!

KLNNNGGGGGGGGGGG

Yield, Child of Symkaria! Yield, O chosen of Doom!

Kid, I didn't mean hand the briefcase to me now!!!

...Who?

Trespass ye upon these halls...

You need to turn around and get the f--

...and be bound!

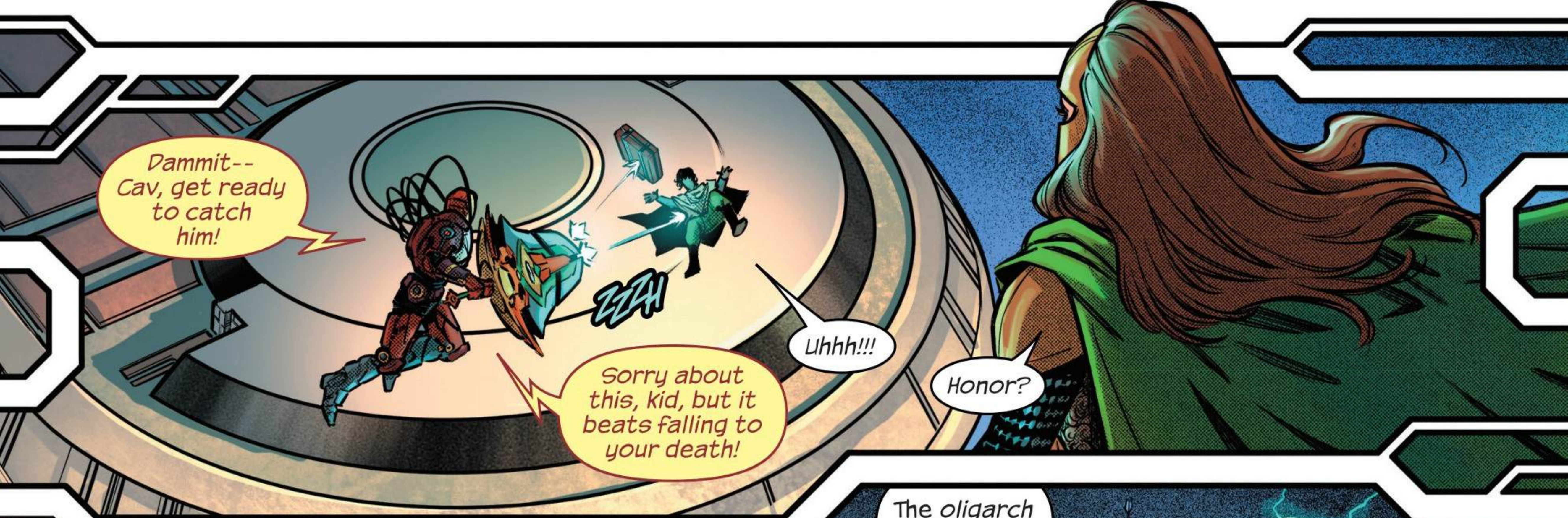
Is this a joke, Iron Man?! You send a novice mage...

...against a wielder of the Power Cosmic?!?!

Victorious, he's just a kid! Fight me!

Is this the honor of the Latverian Empire?

AAAAAAH!





Nuhhhhhhh...

Iron.GPT,
I need
options!

First things
first, Username:
Don't black
out!

Not being
familiar with the
Power Cosmic,
I can only recommend
evasive measures.
You have to be
conscious to
execute them.

Honor lies
in killing such
as you!

For
your death
shows the
people...

Iron.GPT,
I'm, uh, not
saying don't
evade--

~WOOF!~

...the
people you
tried to
deceive...

--just
that all it
means...

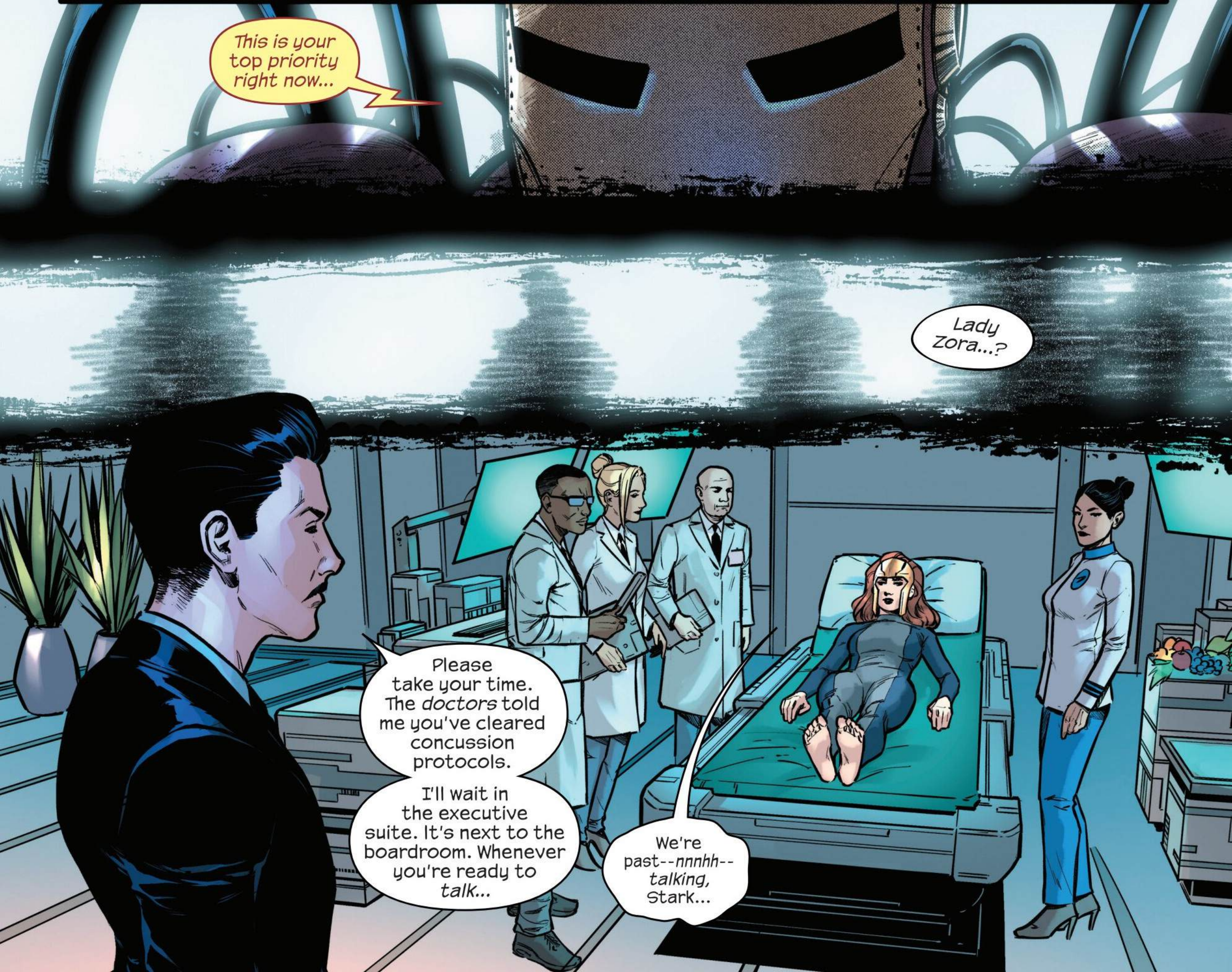
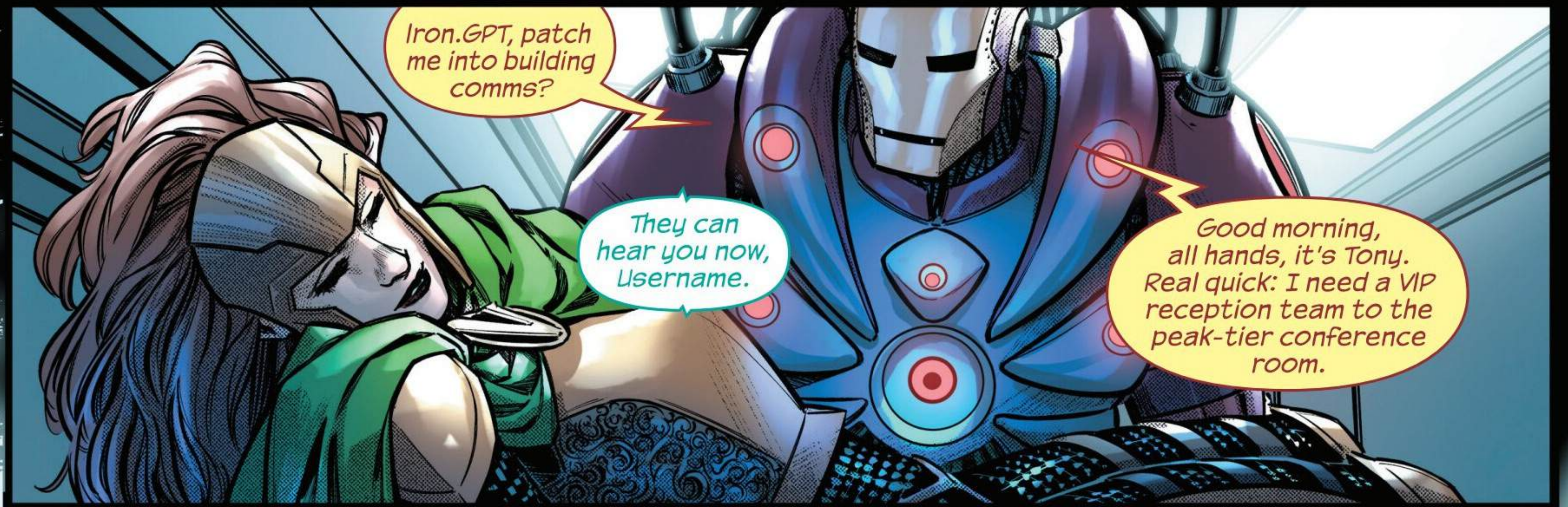
...for
her to have
the Power
Cosmic...

...that
Doom is also
deliverance!

AAAAAAAH!

THOOOOOMMM

...is that
I don't have
to hold
back.





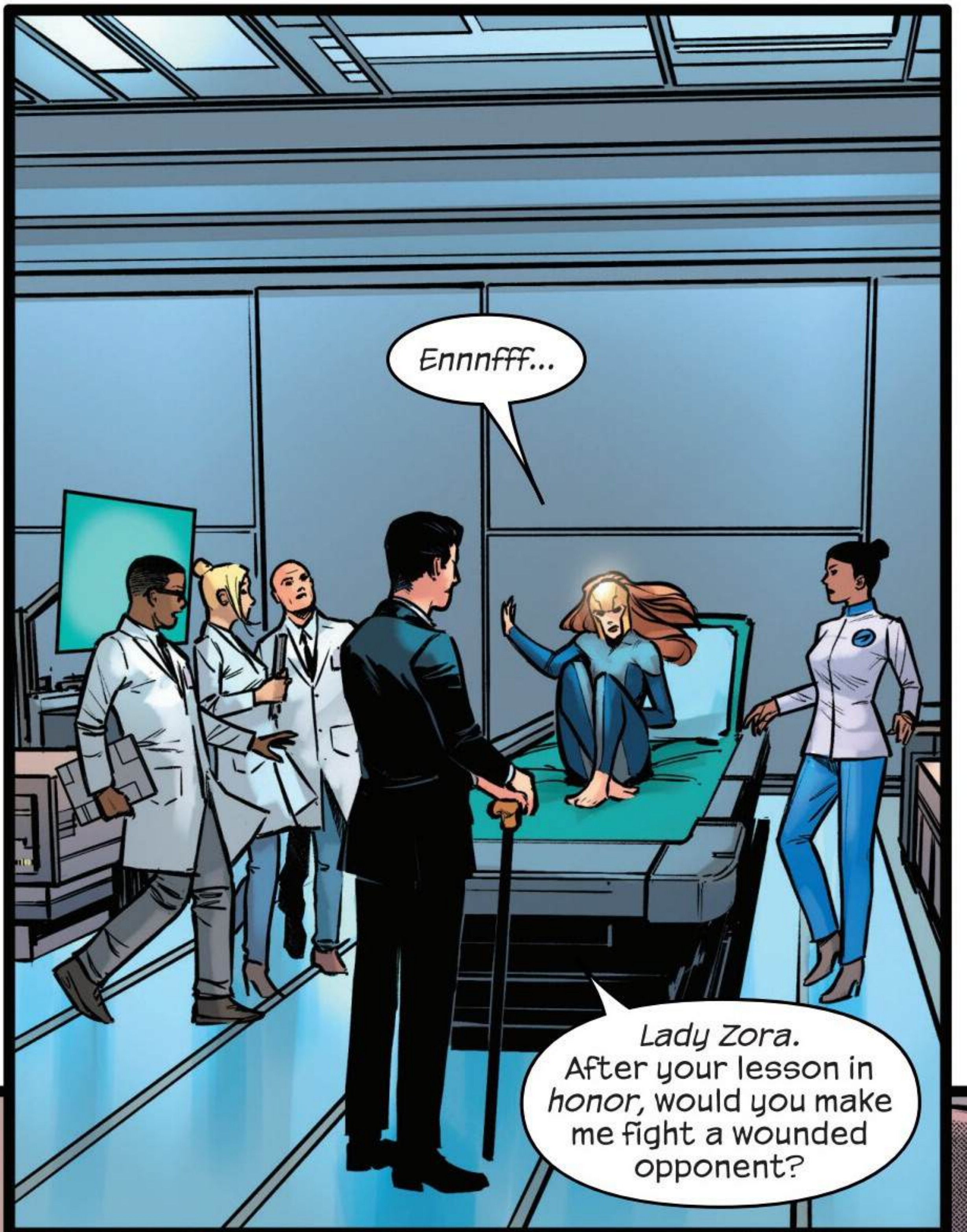
Respectfully, Lady Zora, I think we have a lot to discuss.



Stark. You cannot truly *misunderstand* me, and that makes this *aggravating*.

Either I leave here with your sword--displayed publicly, in fealty to the emperor--

--or with your head.



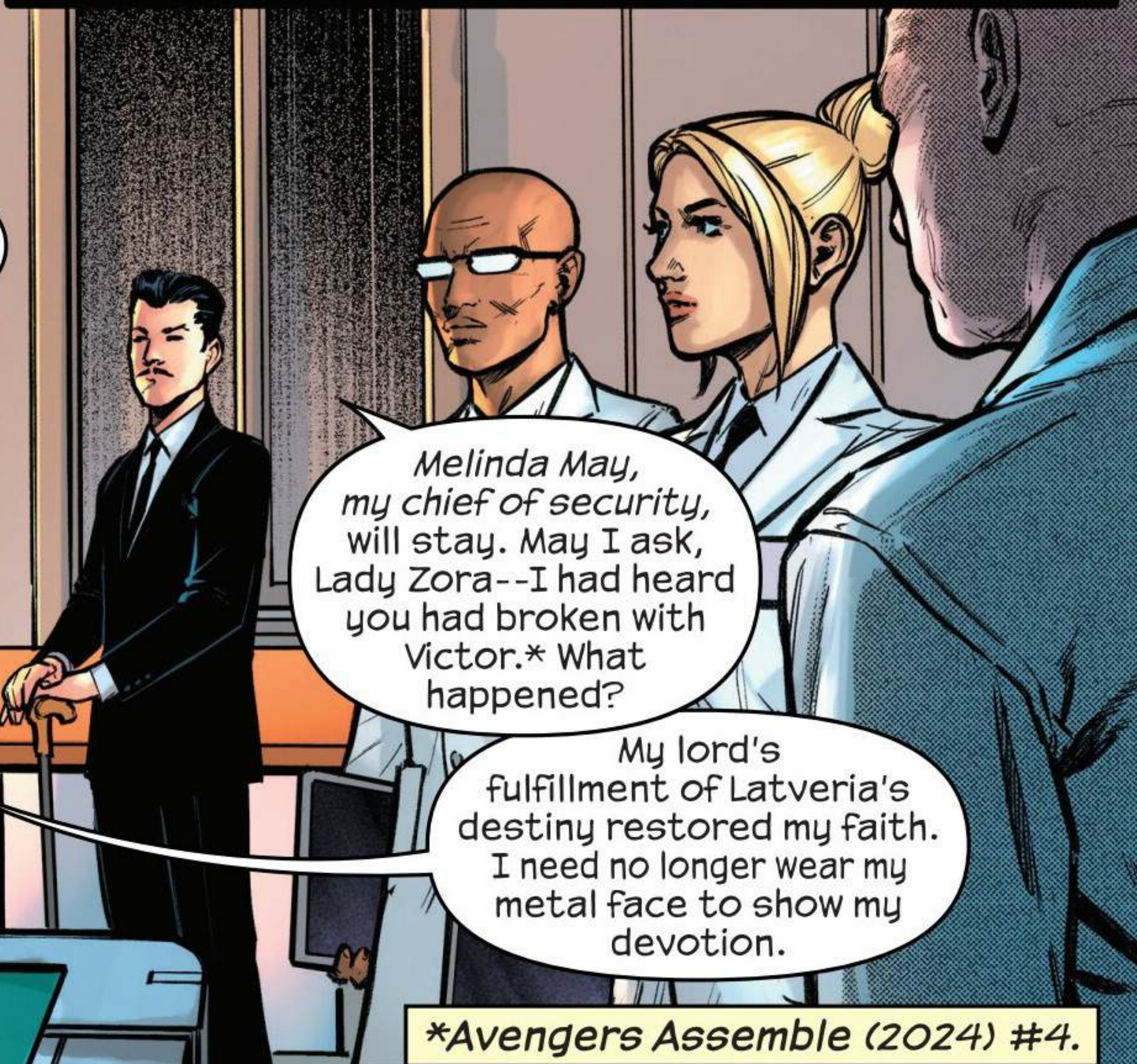
Ennnfff...

Lady Zora. After your lesson in honor, would you make me fight a wounded opponent?



Very well then. Say your piece as I recover. Then we end the age of Iron Man.

Leave us.



Melinda May, my chief of security, will stay. May I ask, Lady Zora--I had heard you had broken with Victor.* What happened?

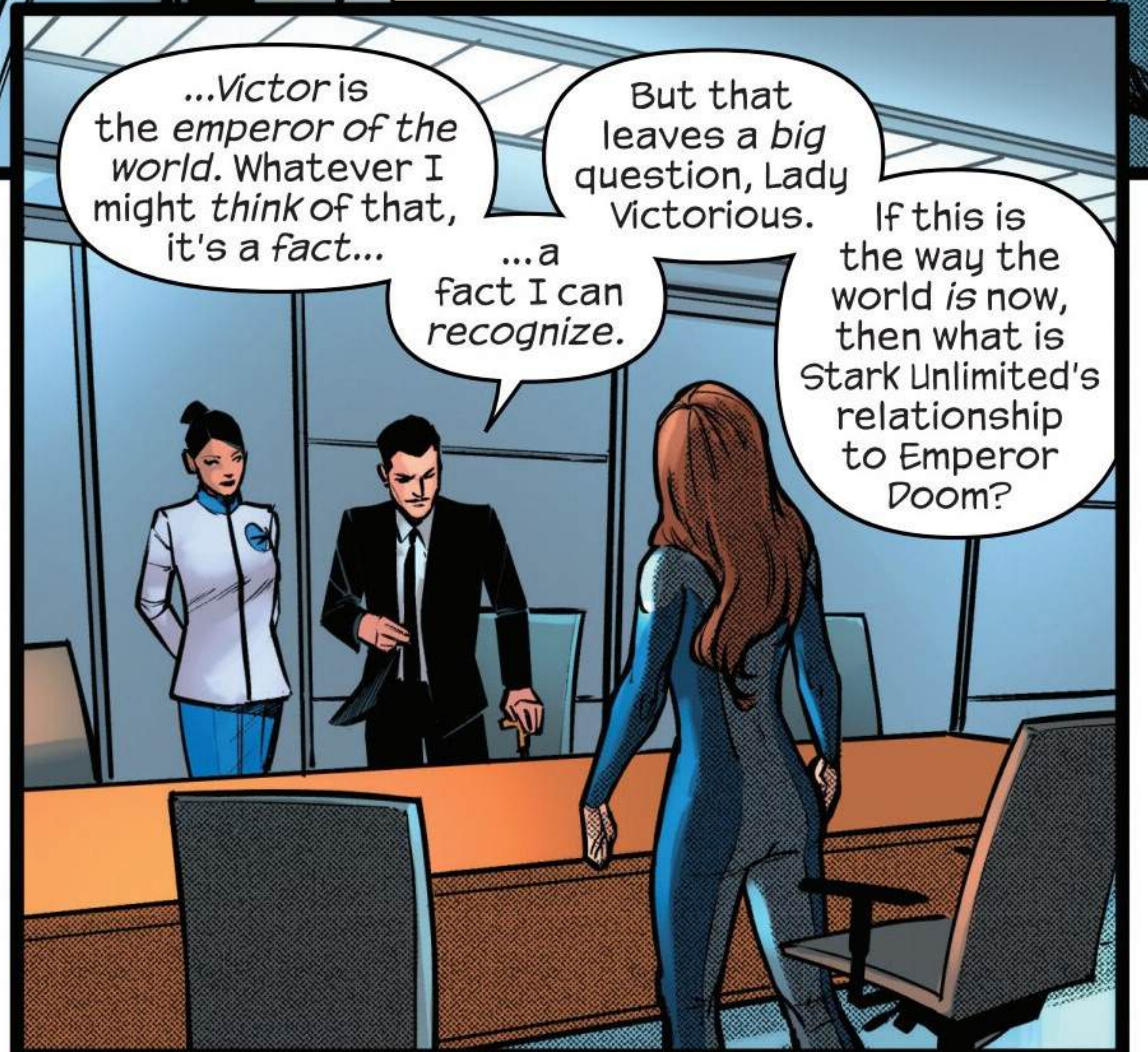
My lord's fulfillment of Latveria's destiny restored my faith. I need no longer wear my metal face to show my devotion.

*Avengers Assemble (2024) #4.



But what matters is *your* devotion to our emperor, Stark. I will not leave here without *proof* of it.

Lady Zora, let me clear this up...

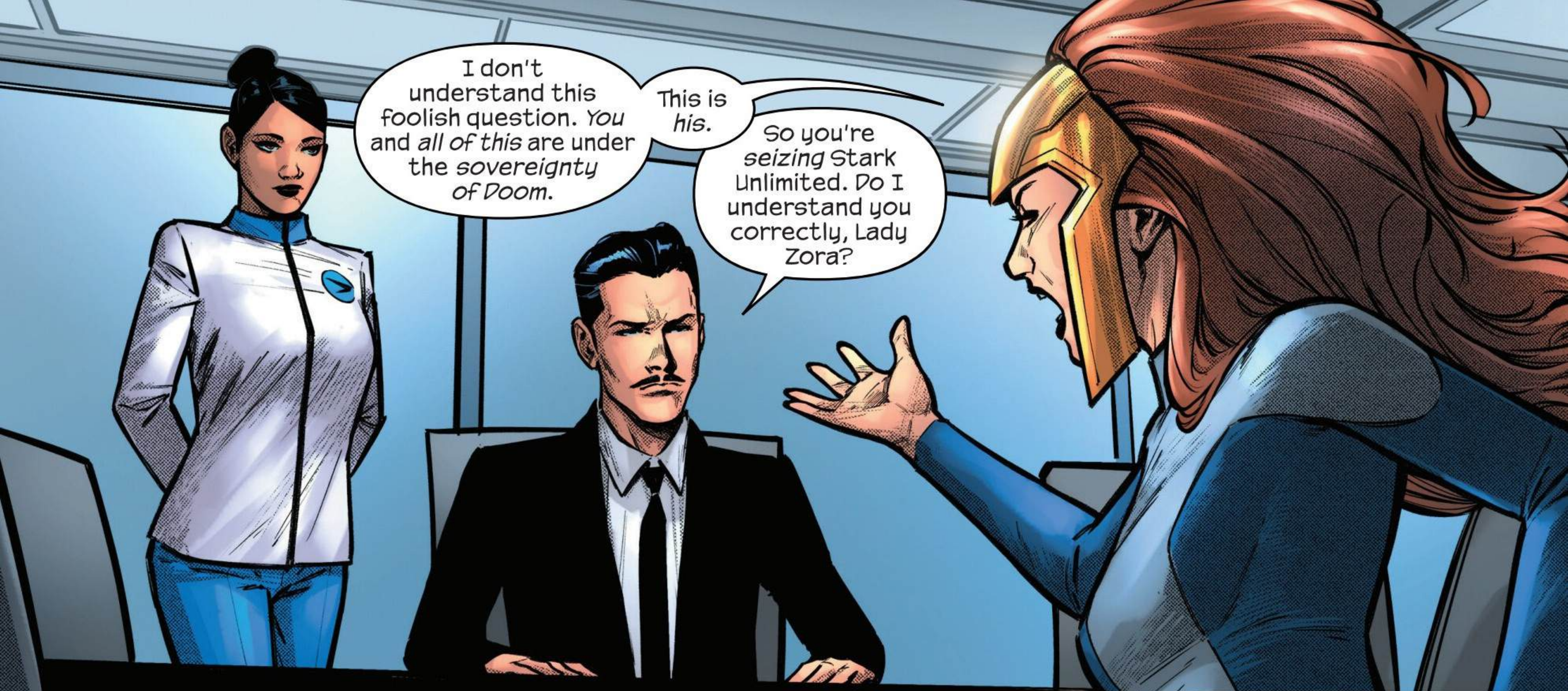


...Victor is the emperor of the world. Whatever I might think of that, it's a fact...

...a fact I can recognize.

But that leaves a big question, Lady Victorious.

If this is the way the world is now, then what is Stark Unlimited's relationship to Emperor Doom?



I don't understand this foolish question. *You* and *all of this* are under the *sovereignty of Doom*.

This is *his*.

So you're *seizing Stark Unlimited*. Do I understand you correctly, Lady Zora?

What? Have Westerners so soon forgotten what it means to have *emperors*?

Lady Victorious. Is *my company* to be the *property of Emperor Doom*?

Should I *die* when we have our rematch, will the *world's largest supplier of zero-emission energy*--

--its leading *technology company*--and once again its most advanced *defense contractor*--be taken by the empire...

...while the global financial markets watch?

What do you mean?

I *mean*, does Emperor Doom wish to tell the *entire capitalist world* that it's over today, that the world's most influential people stand to lose *everything*--

-- because when they see *my head*, they'll think your United Latverian guillotine is coming for *theirs* next.

Has Emperor Doom come to *end capitalism*, Lady Victorious?

I...



I didn't think so.

That means we need to figure out what we are to each other.



You.
Are the
subject.
Of
Doom.



Here's
something I've
discovered about
being a subject
of Doom:
If I cancel
my *contracts*
with various
national militaries
that are now *also*
the subjects of
Doom...



...then several of those
militaries will consider
themselves to be at the
peak of their *strength*--
meaning it will be their
last best chance to rid
themselves
of Doom.
I don't
want to sell
weapons, Lady
Victorious...



...I *have* to sell weapons
to maintain the *balance of
power* within your very
new empire.
It's cute
that *Doom* outlawed
war, whatever that
means. But peace under a
new global order doesn't
just *emerge*. Imposing
that order provokes
challenge.

Victor has
just provoked
challenge at *scale*.



So then you
are telling me
the price of your
fealty is keeping
your *weapons
contracts*?



No. I'm explaining
the thinking among
your new subjects that
could lead to *war* if I *dump*
their contracts. As best
I see it, there's only one
way to part with them
and avoid *war*...

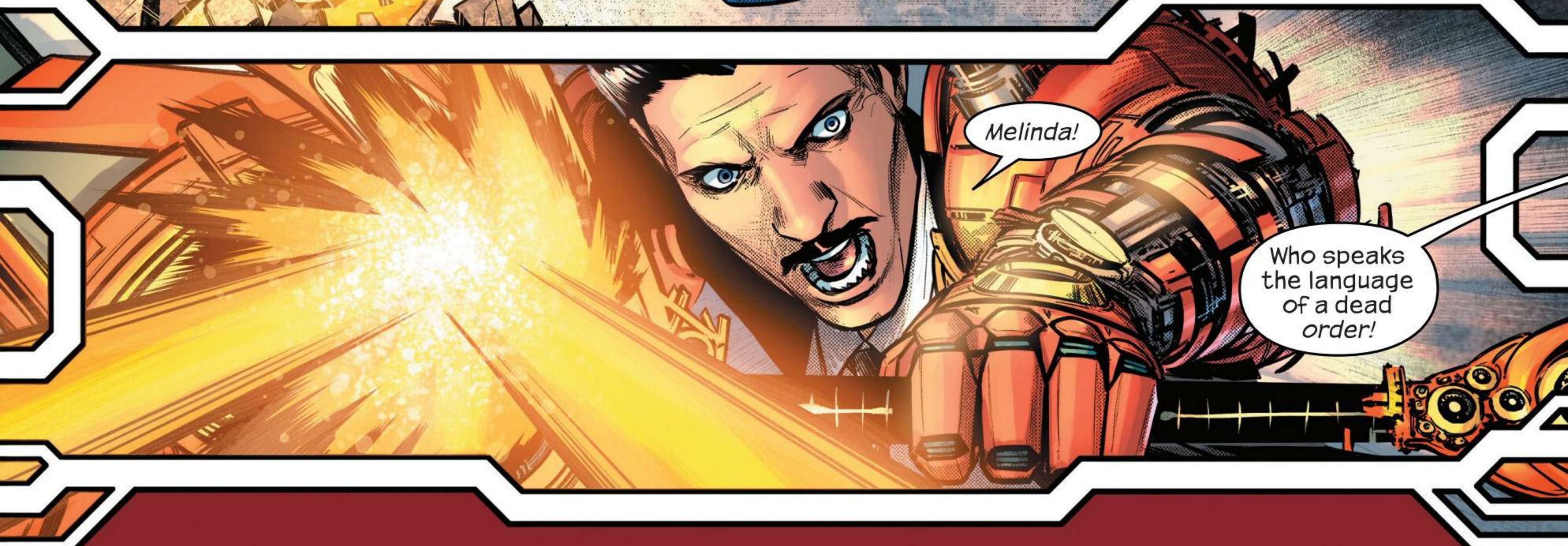


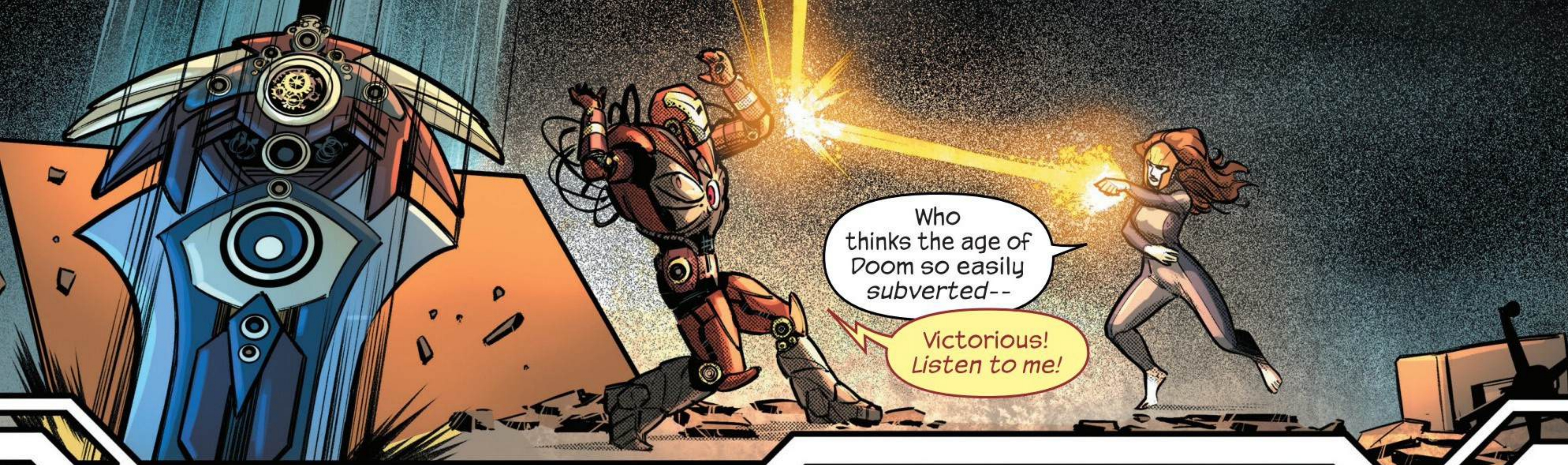
...because
there's only one
client with the scale
to *decisively* tilt
the balance of
power.
What?
I mean
that to reassure
the *markets*,
prevent global
instability...



...and make me
whole...
...*Stark
Unlimited* should
provide the technological,
energy and defense
infrastructure for
United Latveria.
This is how
we relate to each other
in your new order. *Doom*
the architect.

And *Stark*
the *contractor*.





Who thinks the age of Doom so easily subverted--

Victorious! Listen to me!



You expect me to believe there is such a thing as a reluctant war profiteer?

Enough!

Just-- --listen to--



Now that Doom is emperor, taking my weapons off the market is like pulling a pin from a grenade!

If Doom doesn't want to start his regime with a bloodbath, this is the only way to defuse it!



NNNFFFF-- but if Doom has Stark weapons--Stark surveillance--then the only rational choice for the world's overmatched militaries--

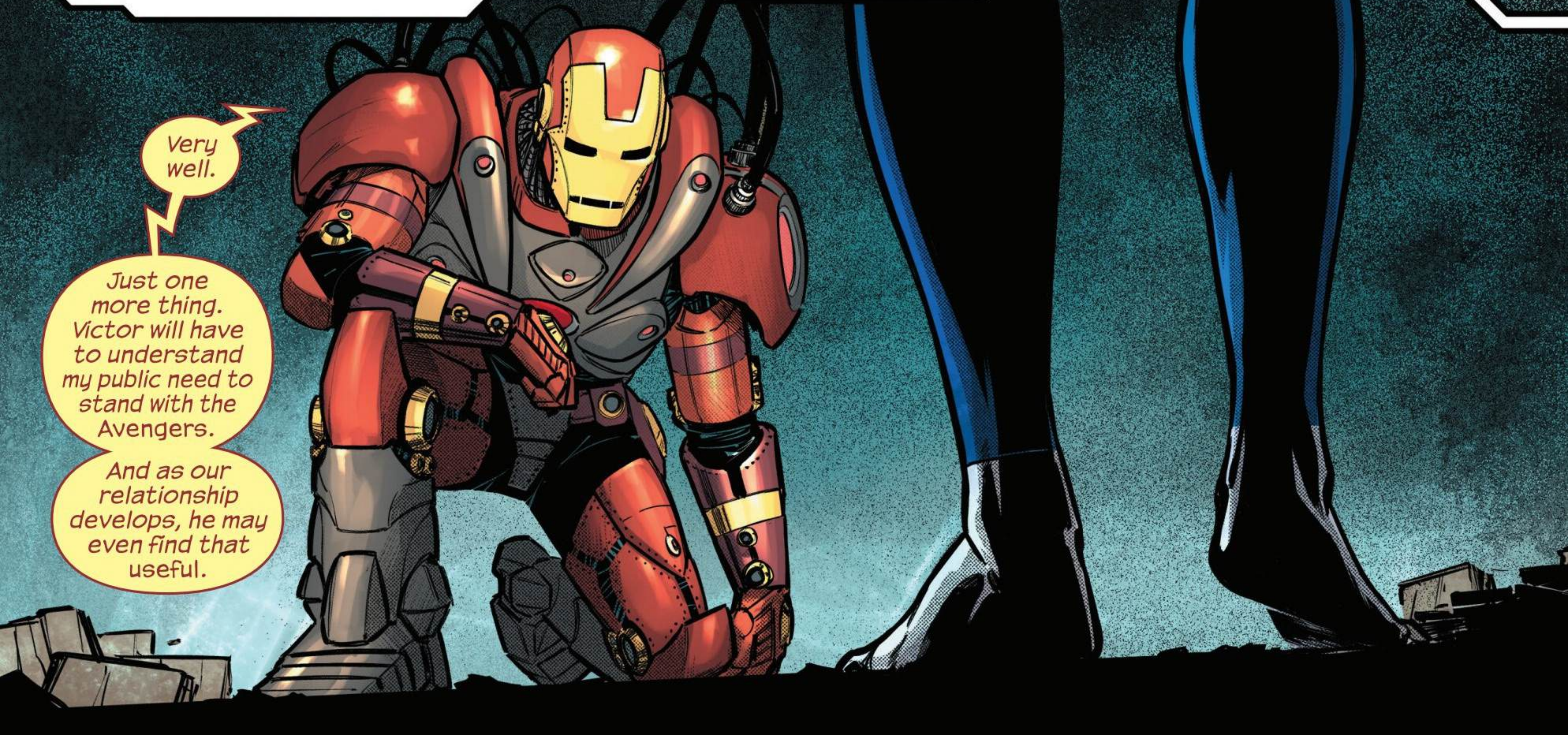
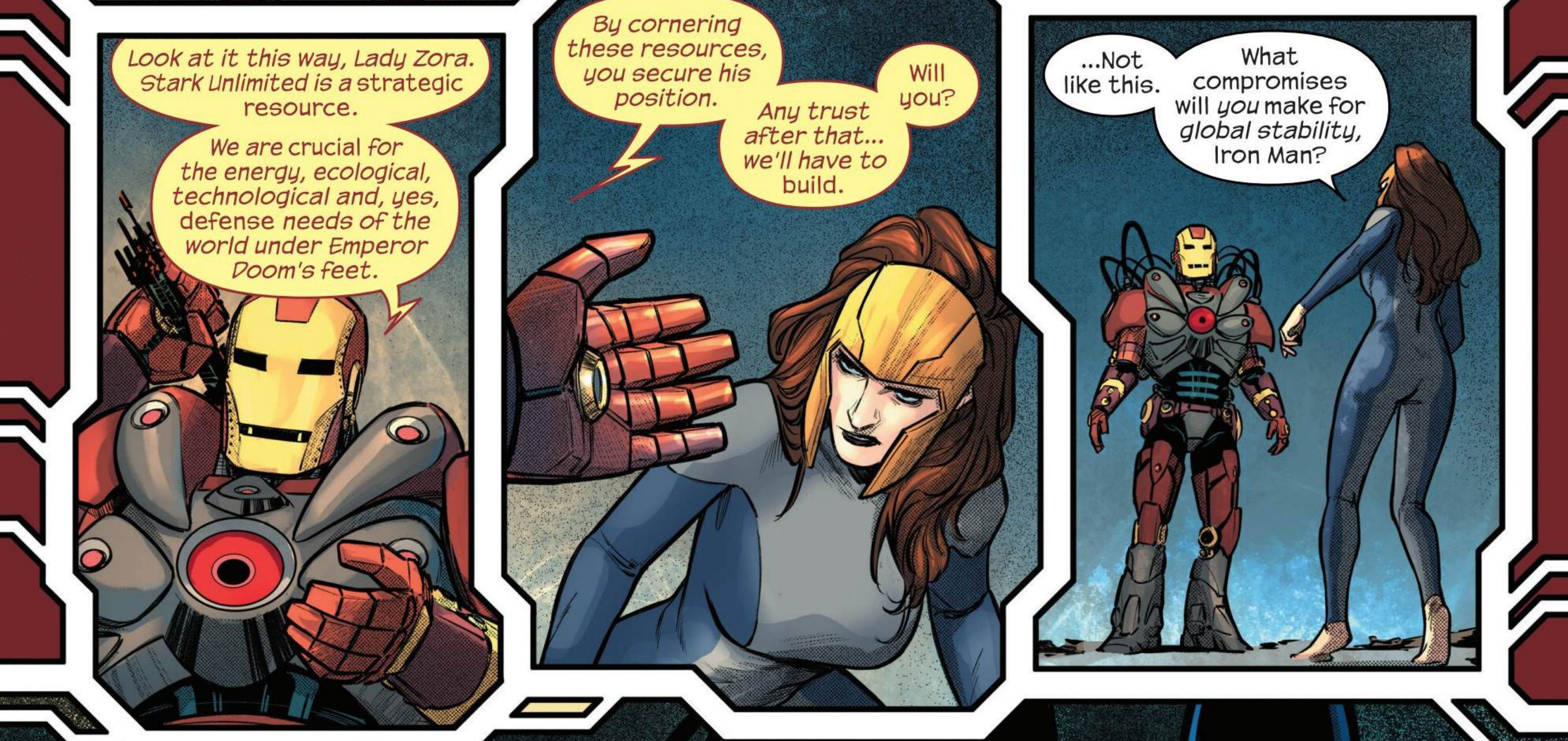
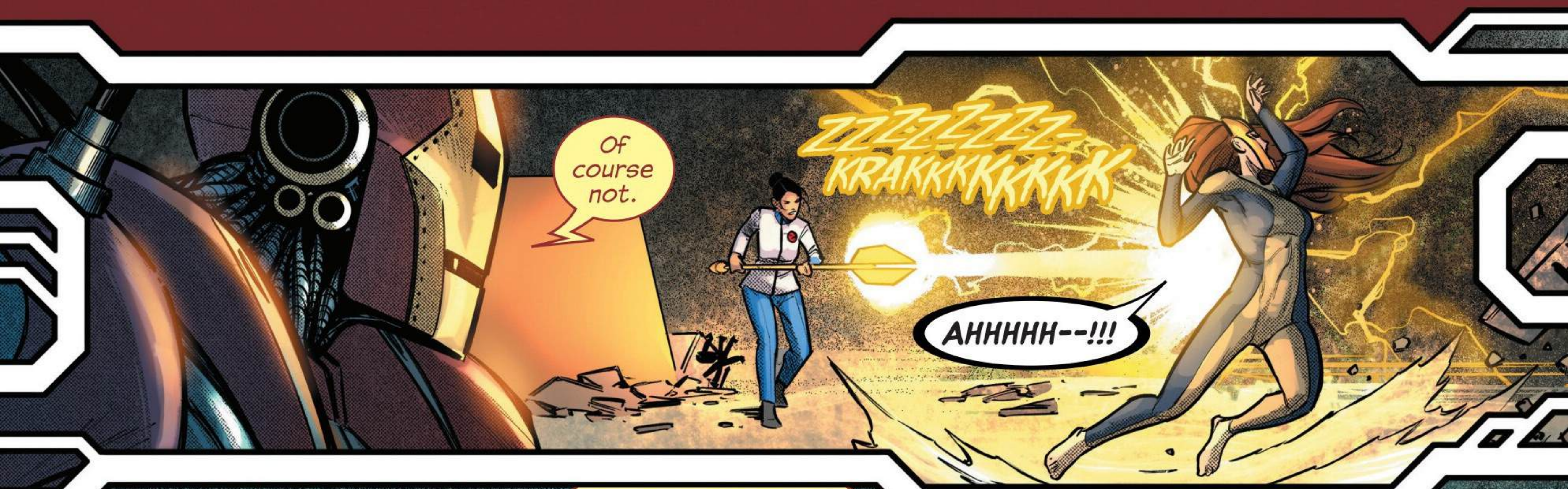
--is to accept Doom!



This is what victory looks like, Lady Zora!

Are you willing to accept that?

You expect Doom to trust you?





Await summons with word of the emperor's decision, Stark.

We will, in any case, expect discretion.

Expect it, Lady Victorious.



Phewww--I knew that should work...

...but I didn't know if it *would* work, you know?

Tony, that was, just...

She even left without my sword!



...WOW. I guess I've never seen you... *at work* like this.

Thank you, Melinda. And believe me, I get it...



...you think I'm one of the worst S.H.I.E.L.D. directors in history. Don't worry, I'm not offended. It's a widely held view.

But could one of the worst S.H.I.E.L.D. directors in history *dethrone* Emperor Doom?



#6 VARIANT BY
IAN BERTRAM



#7 MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS VARIANT BY
DAVID LOPEZ



#7 VARIANT BY
NETHO DIAZ, JP MAYER & ISRAEL SILVA



EIGHT: THE DEADLY RHYTHM OF THE PRODUCTION LINE

ERBIL,
IRAQI KURDISTAN.



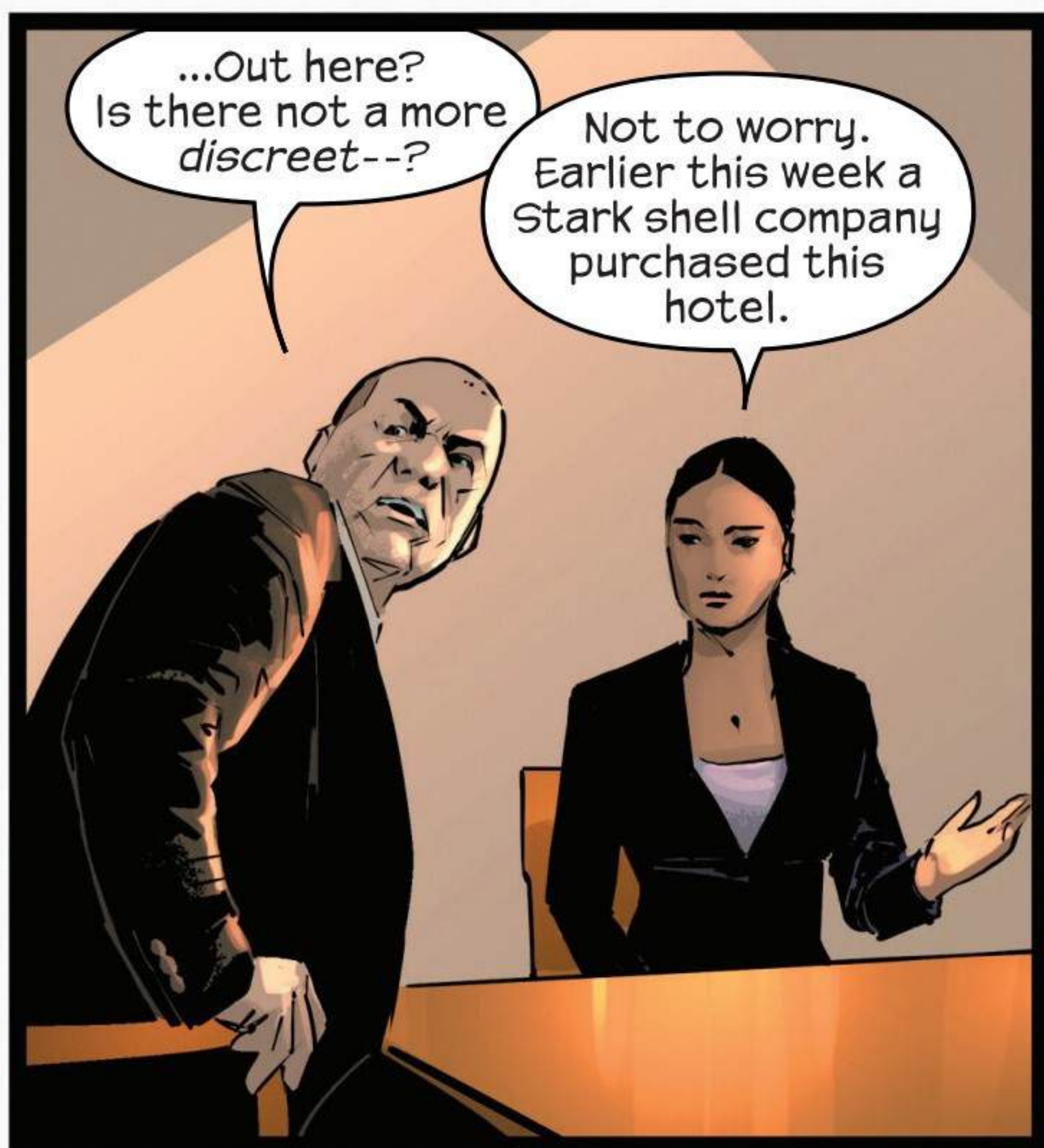
Now,
this...



...this is
more like what I
expected from
Tony Stark.

Welcome,
Commander Hunyadi.
I'm Melinda
May.

Mister Stark
personally selected
me to liaise with the
Latverian Patriotic Front
as we move ahead with
our joint venture.



...Out here?
Is there not a more
discreet--?

Not to worry.
Earlier this week a
Stark shell company
purchased this
hotel.



Everyone
here is *my*
people.

I command
the new *STark*
Reconnaissance,
Intelligence, *Kinetic*-
Evasion BR--



Of course you
are S.H.I.E.L.D. No
matter.

Former
S.H.I.E.L.D.,
yes.

Is anyone
ever truly *former*
S.H.I.E.L.D.,
Miss May?



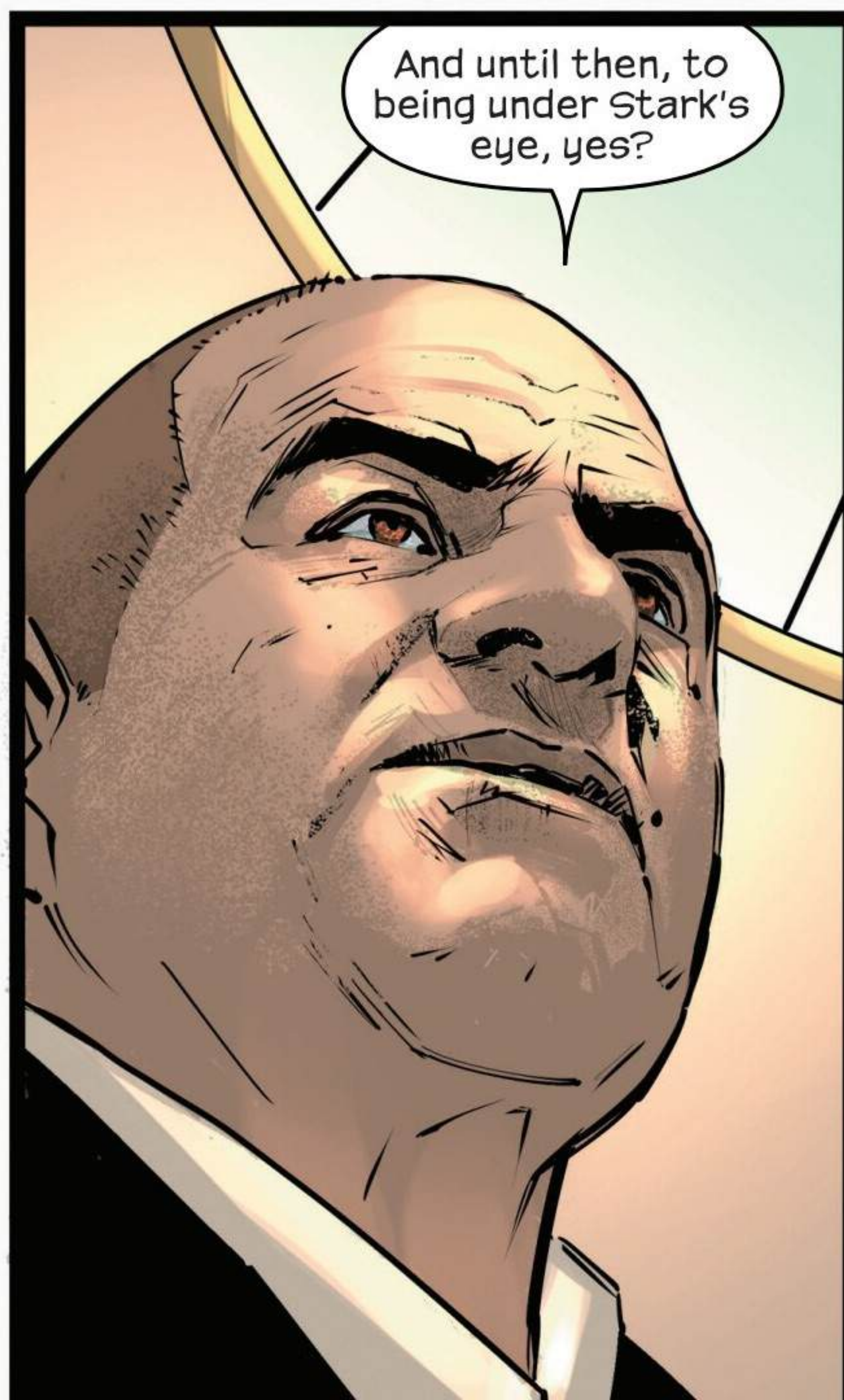
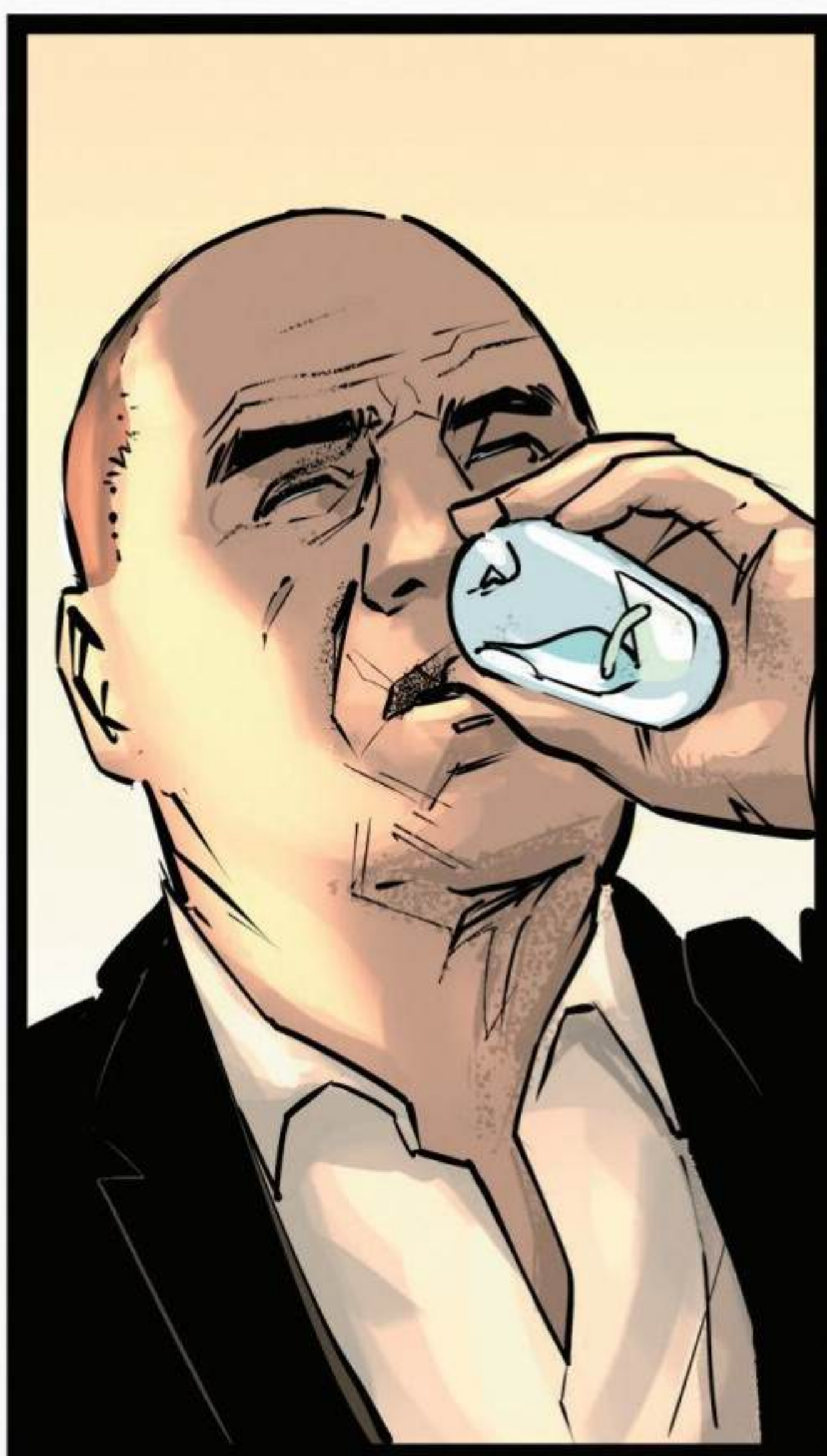
I certainly
bring my *experience*
to my work for Mister
Stark, yes.

Now, then.
He tells me you
favor *rakiya*.

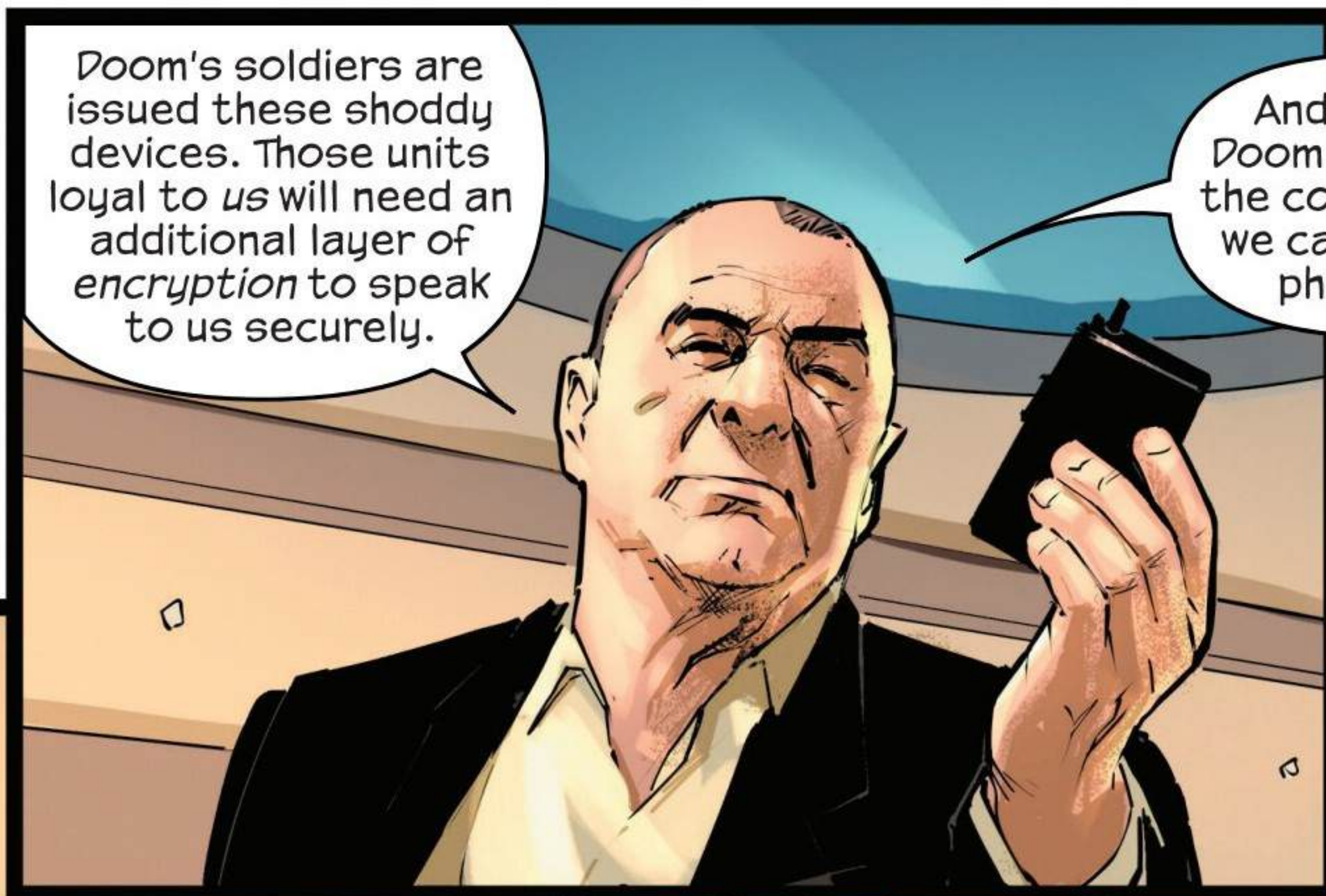
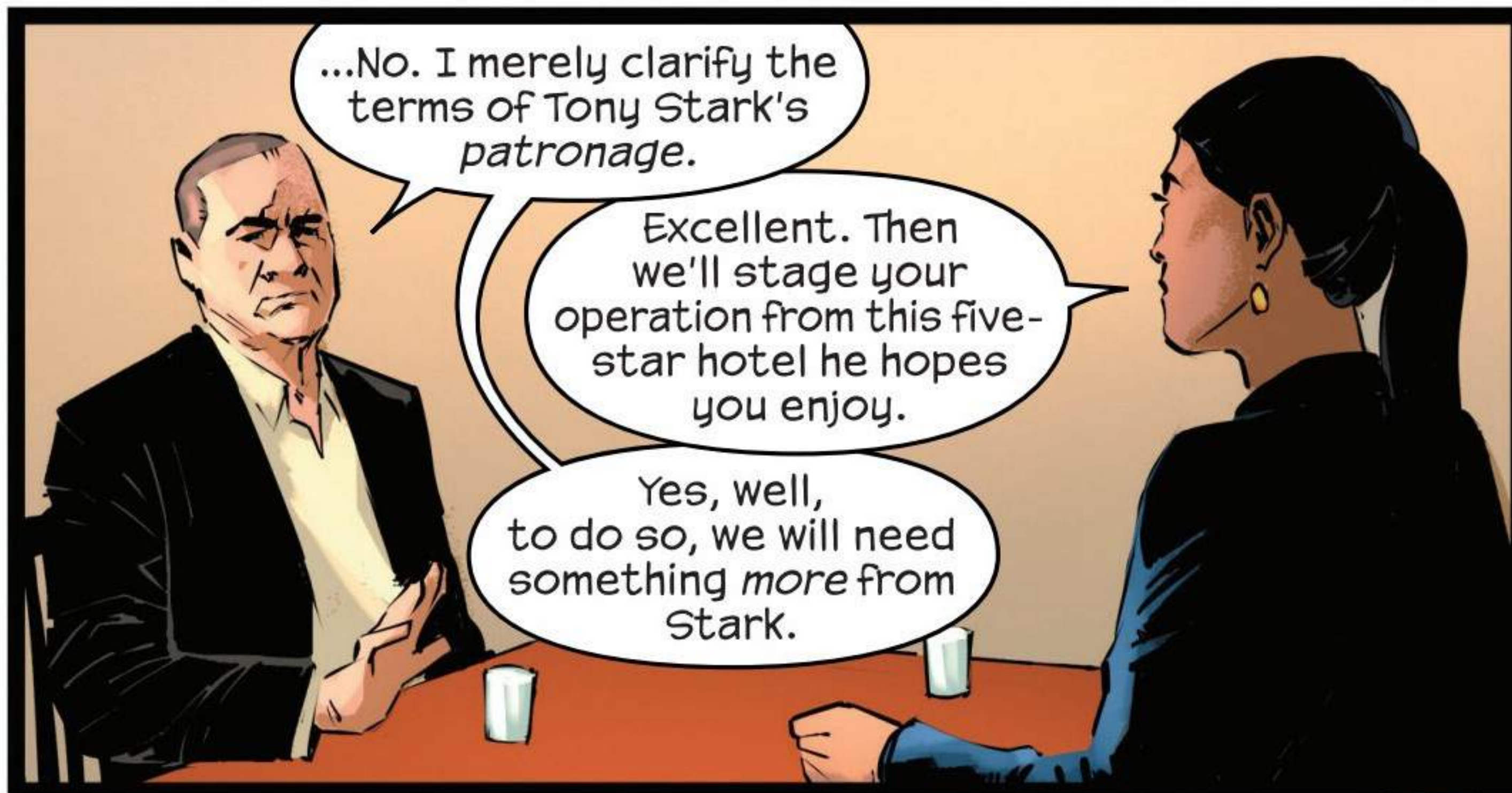


Finally.
Someone
civilized.

You'll find the
accommodations
here very *civilized*.
To our victory.
Győzjelem.



And until then, to
being under Stark's
eye, yes?







You are hurt?

Just--enh--older than you. I've been in the hospital a lot lately. Whatever. Check the ball.



Is that a good idea?

All my ideas are. This is physical therapy. And if I don't *bruzhtakh* this, you have to answer a question.



Kobe!
It'll wait for me...

Is that your phone?



...that's what it means to be the boss.

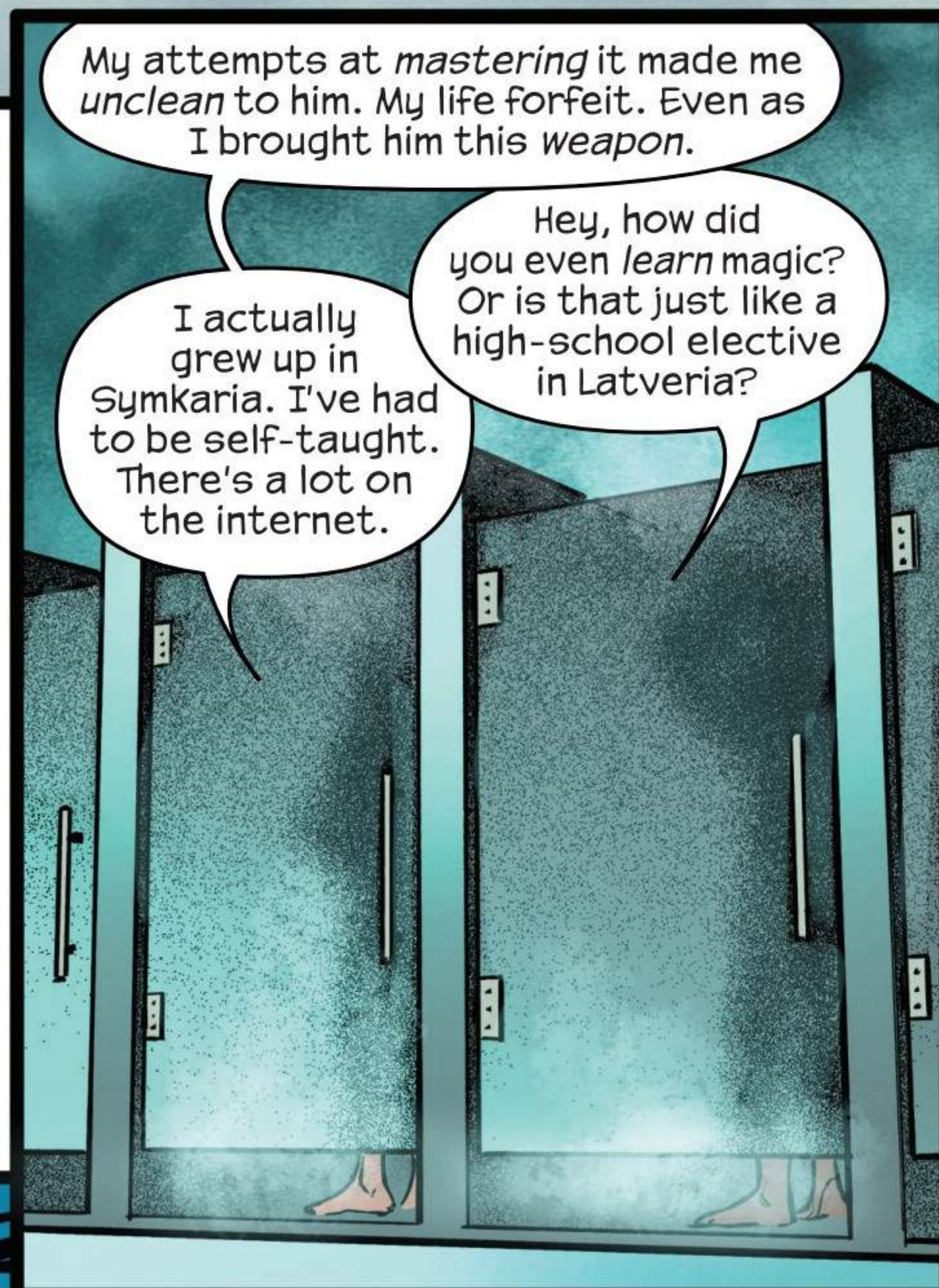
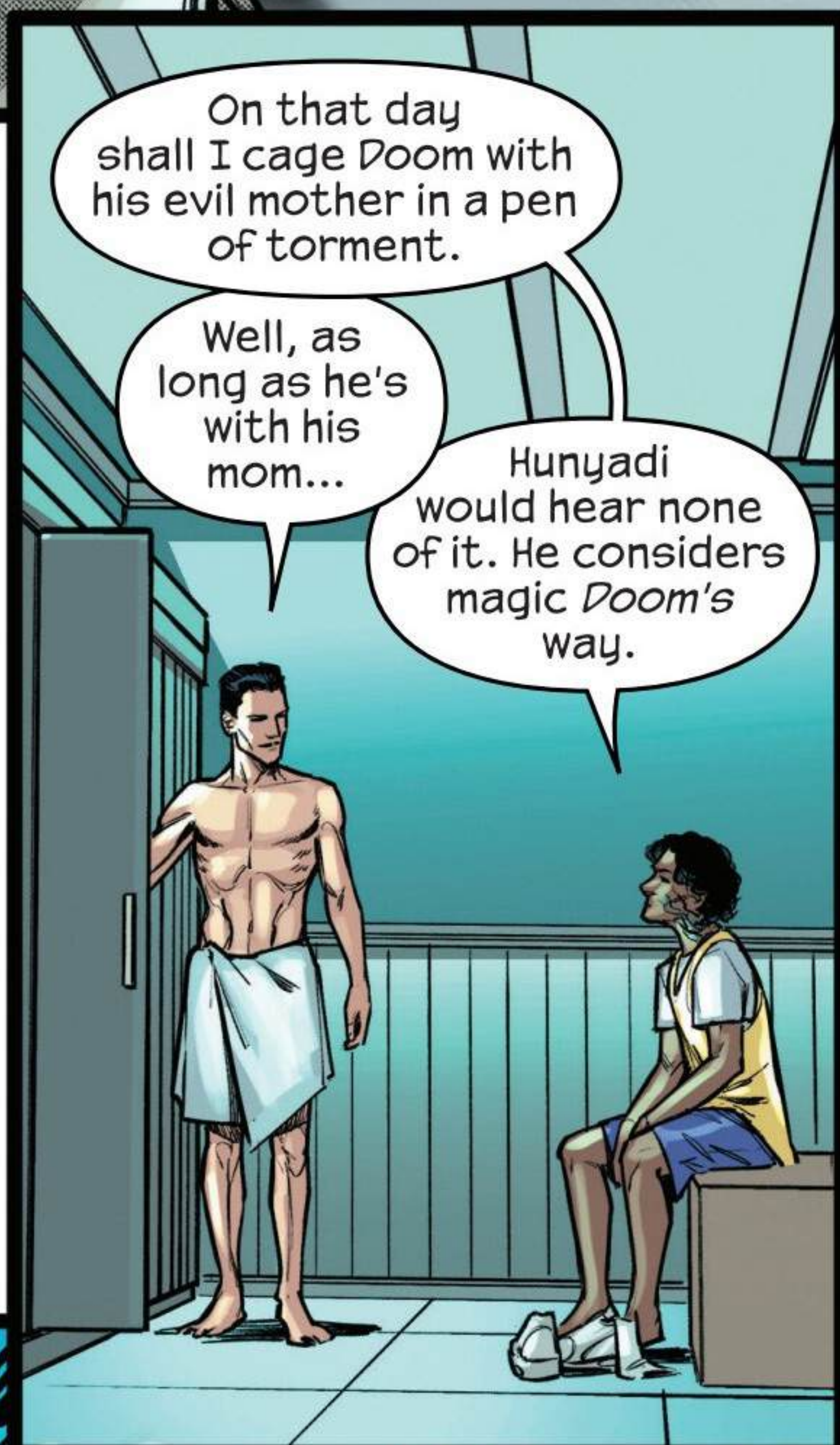
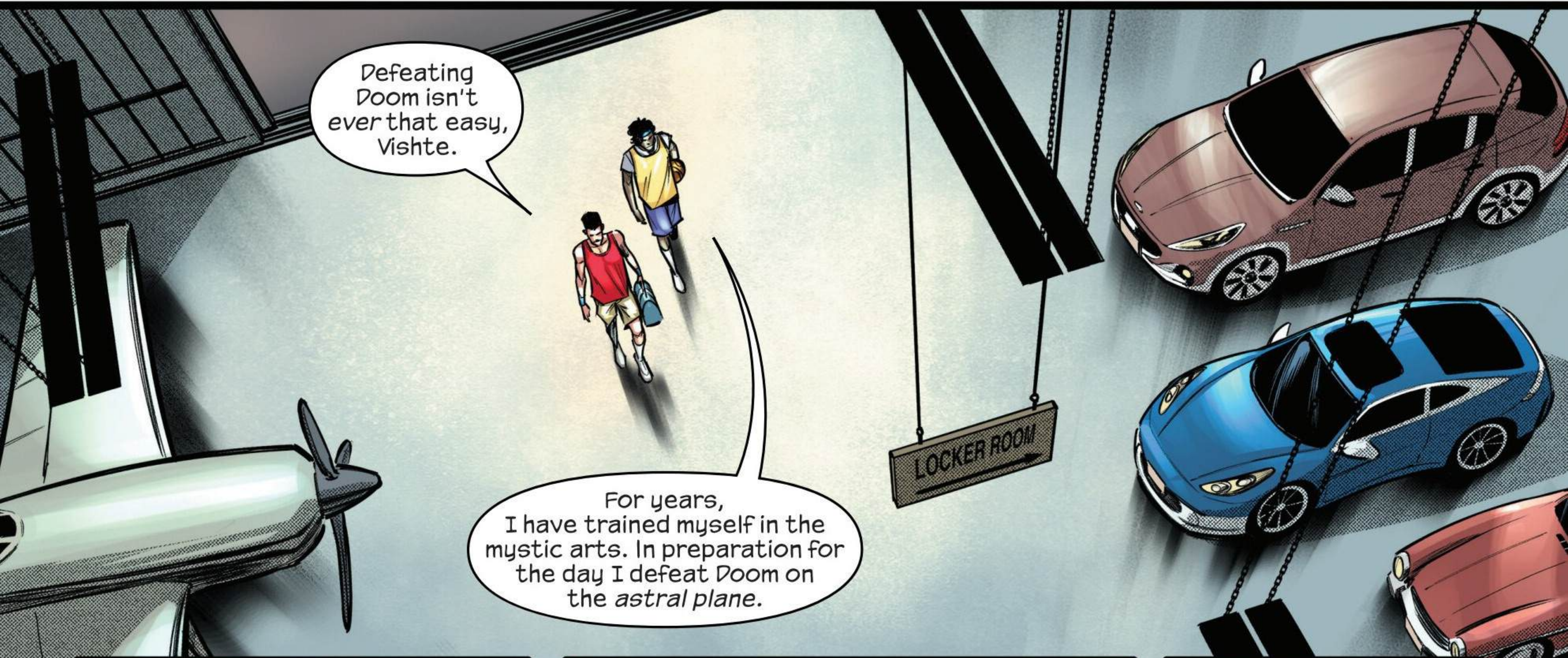
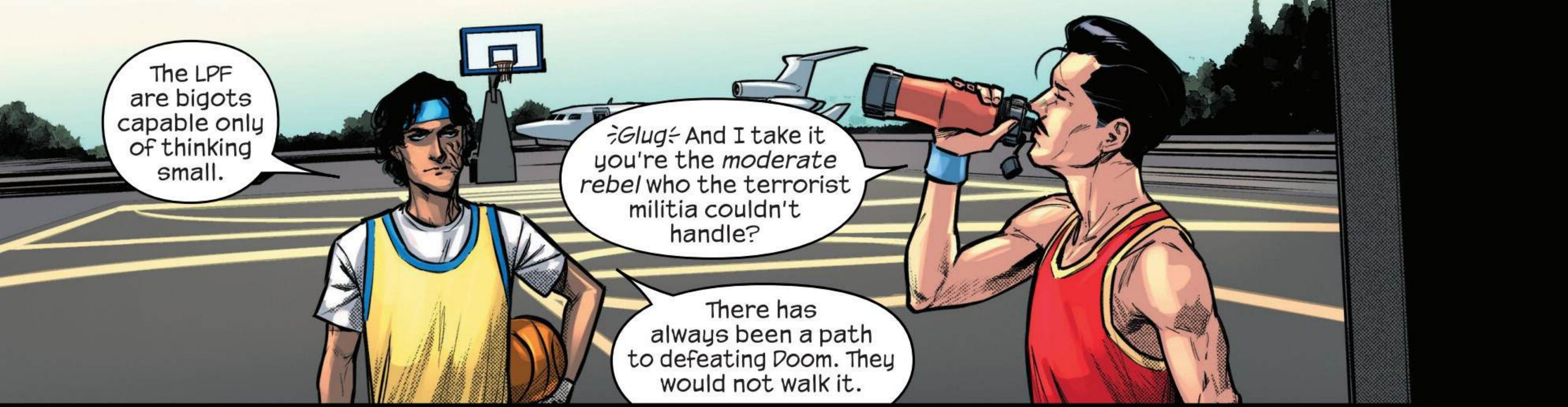
Nice. Not looking too old to me, Tony.

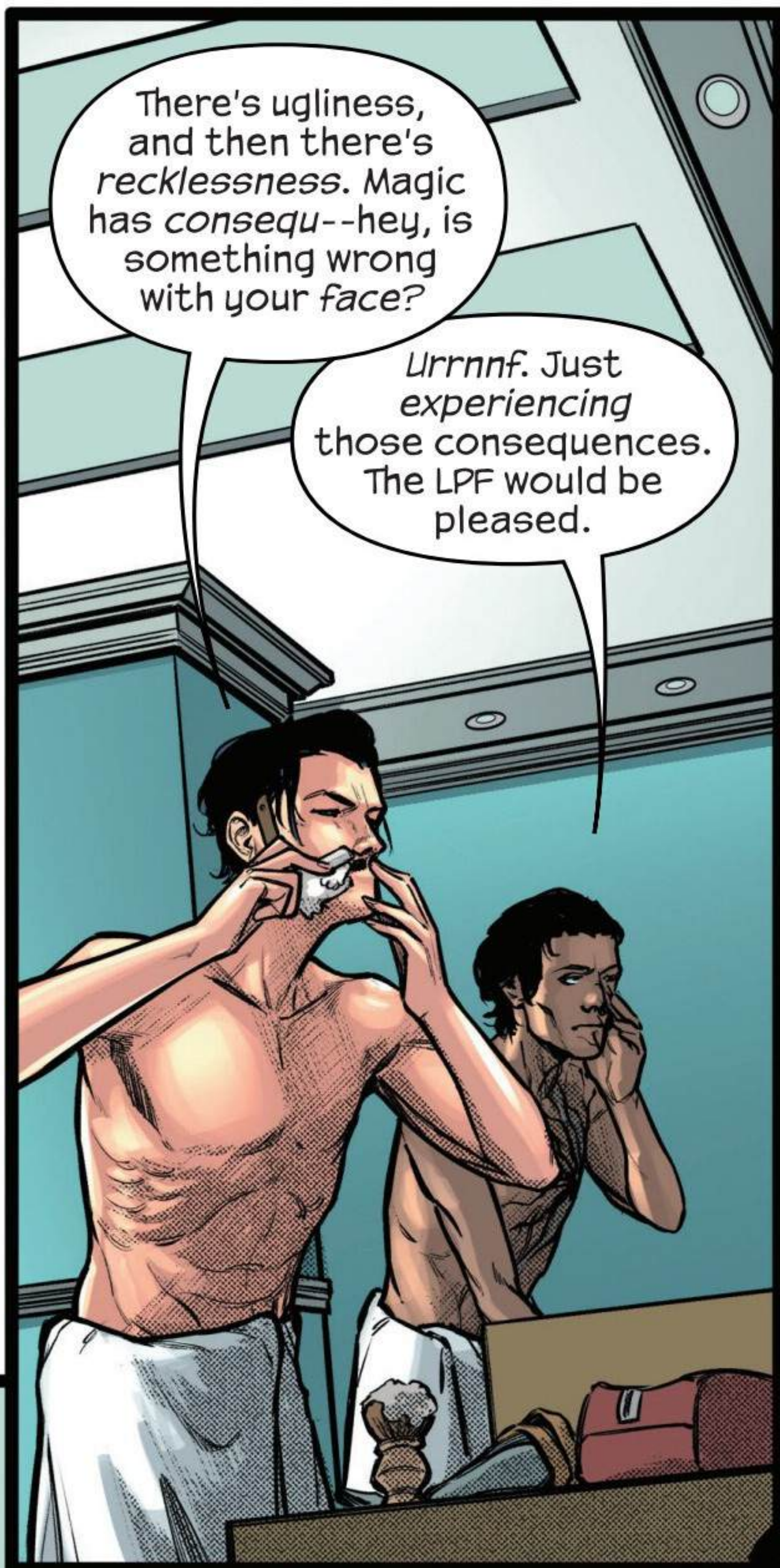


Maybe not, kid.

So now I need to ask...

...why'd the Latverian Patriotic Front want me to *kill* you?





There's ugliness, and then there's *recklessness*. Magic has *consequ--*hey, is something wrong with your face?

Urrnnf. Just experiencing those consequences. The LPF would be pleased.



Who cares what those bigots think? We're going to have to walk a very fine line with the LPF--helping them *fight*, but not so much that they *win*.

Yes, well, they can fight. What worries me is that with your weapons...they *could* win.



It feels strange to say this. But here we can have some faith in *Victor*. Doom is the scariest man I've faced. He'll put up the fight of his life against them.

Anyway, the missiles will take a while. We're in a holding pattern. *Victorious* says they want to see what our *full production capacity* looks like before they commit to a public purchase.



Still, butchers like the LPF coming so close to power...

Remember what you said about remembering what I said about overthrowing someone innocently?

Hey, here's a job you'll like.

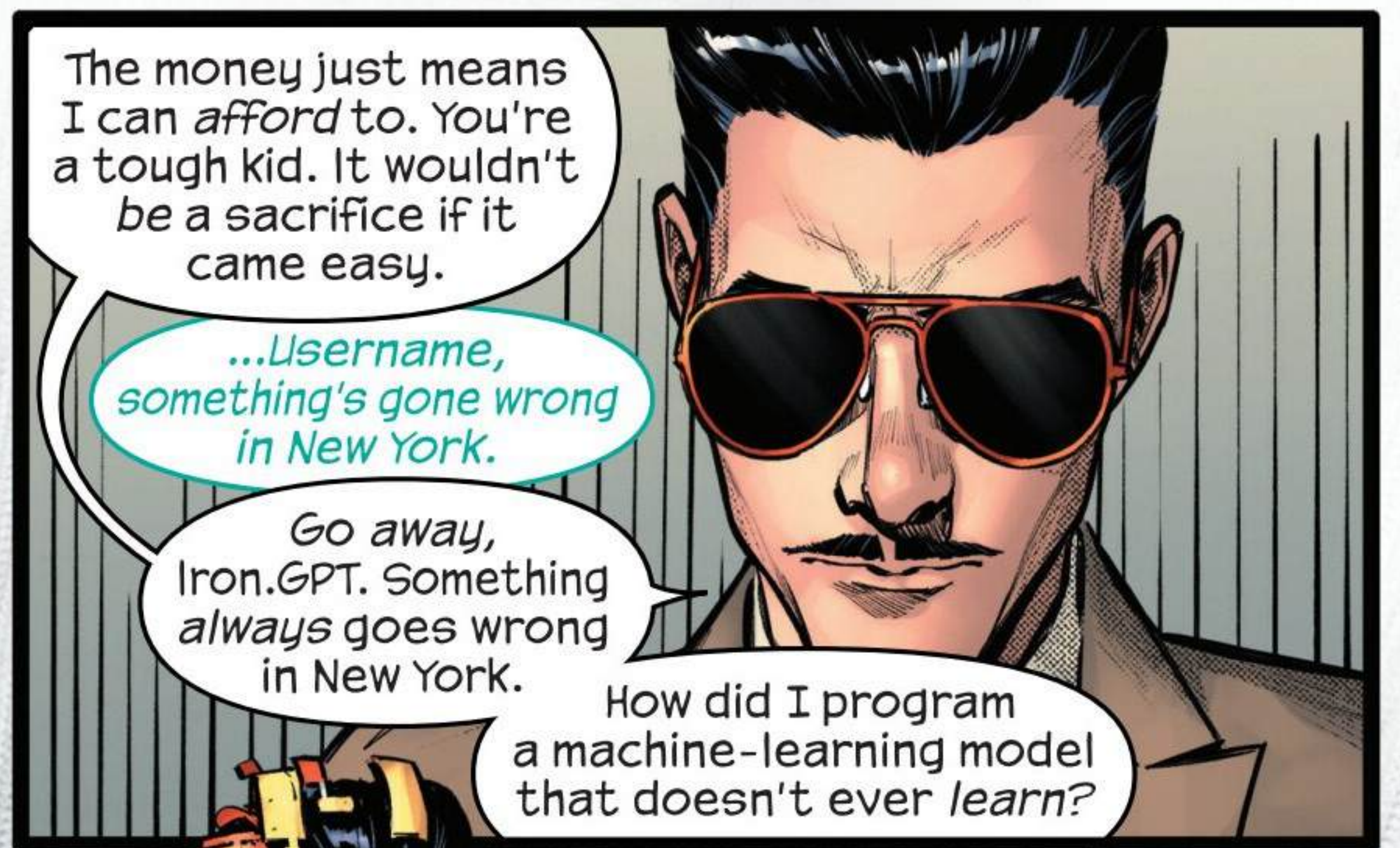


Melinda texted from Iraq. The LPF needs us to send a software patch to a bunch of Latverian handsets under the dome.

If you handle that for me...feel free to root around in the LPF's messages and metadata.

Oh.

Consider it handled.



UPSTATE NEW YORK.

Union busting!

STARK
INTRANSIGENT

FAIR
CONTRACT
NOW

IS DISGUSTING!

Union
busting!

IS DISGUSTING!

Union
busting!

IS DISGUSTING!

"All right, ya
ex-S.H.I.E.L.D.
goldbricks..."

...I know you all wish the
Cavalry took ya on her
mission to Eye-Rack!
And I don't care!

We got a
situation out there, and
we're gonna handle it
for her!

We're the
Stark Reconnaissance,
Intelligence and Kinetic-Evasion
BRIGade for Electronic Attack,
Espionage n' Ruggedized
Solutions...

SECURITY

...so let 'em know
we mean business,
S.T.R.I.K.E.
B.R.E.A.K.E.R.S.!

YES, FIRST
SERGEANT!!!

LET'S GO!!!

Ramon!
Help!

What the--?

Roll 'em up,
'B.R.E.A.K.E.R.S.!
All the way up
the line!

HELP!

Stop!
We were just
picketing!

Ramon!

THANKKKK

Why are
you doing
th--?

Get the
#\$\$%& back
to work!

I said get up! You
like hospital food or
something?

Please...

Yo!
Bootlicker!

Tell me
how mine
taste!

KRKKKKKKKK

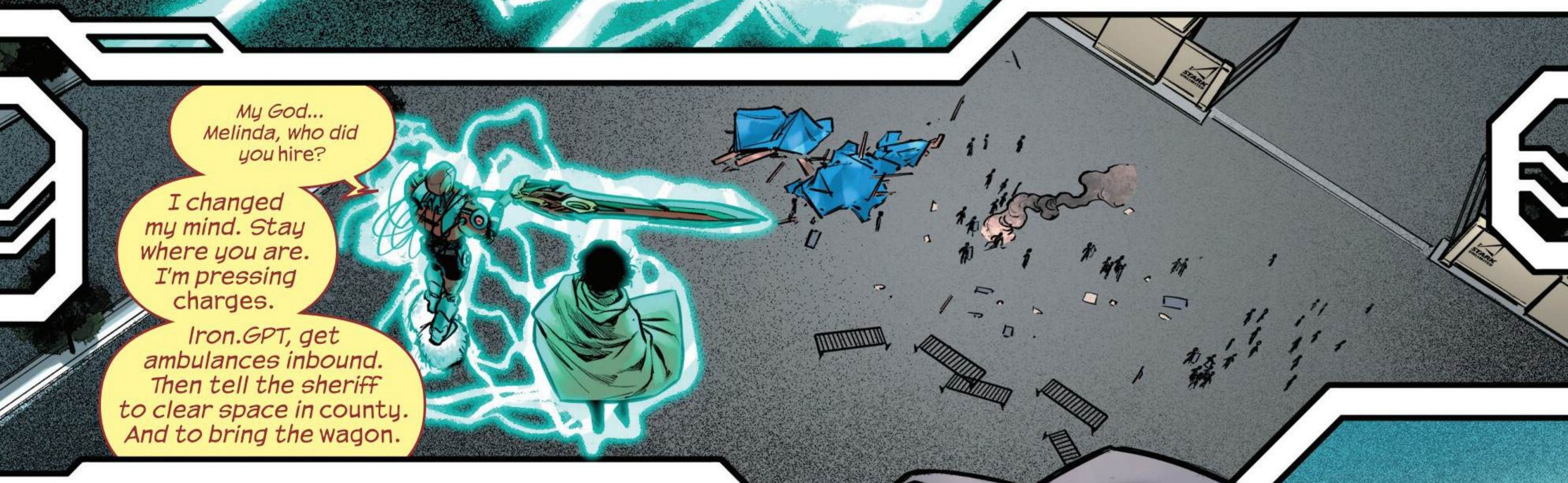




Tell it to my Repulsword.

Then get the hell off my property.

Something tells me you're not part of the bargaining unit. So I can fire you as I please.



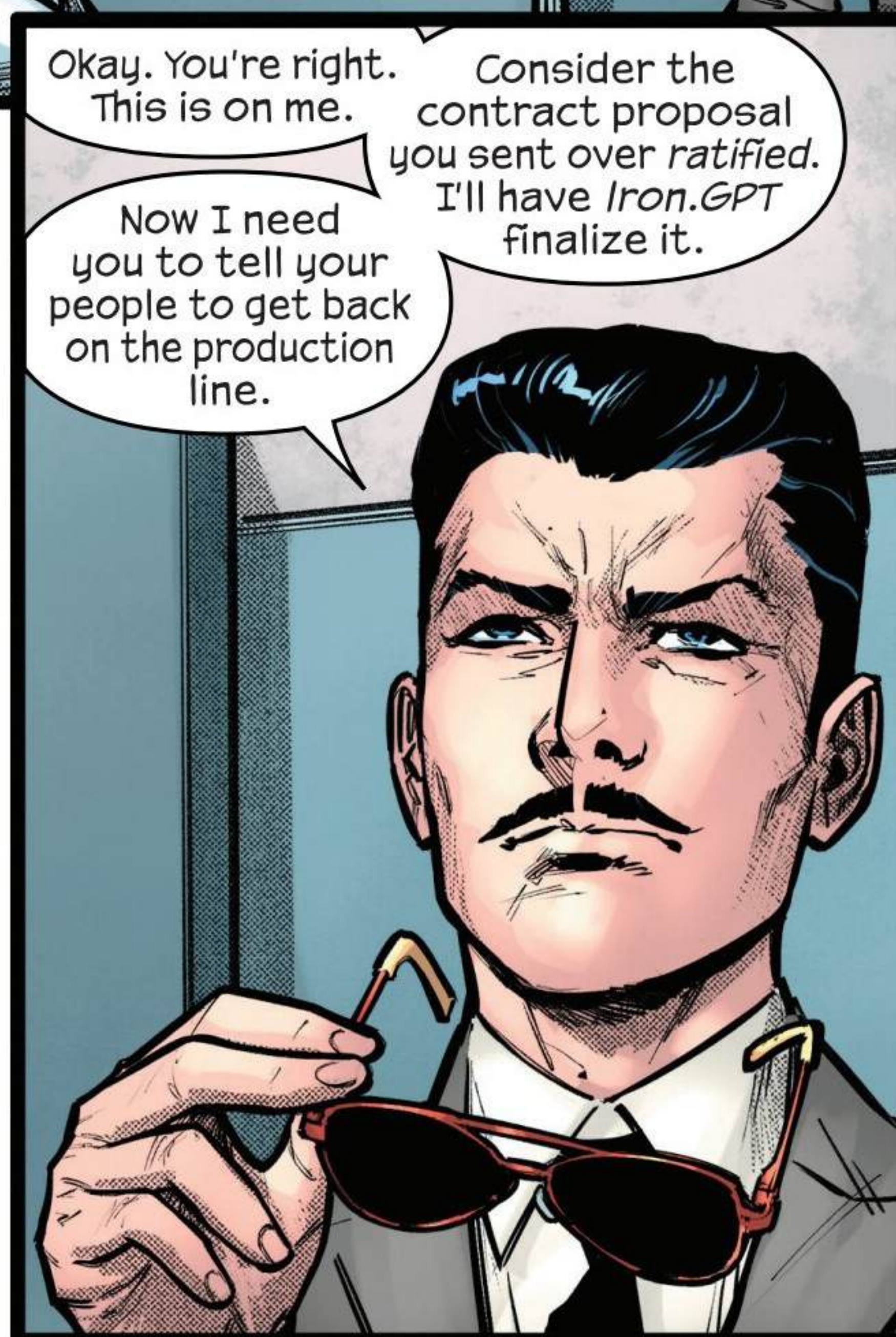
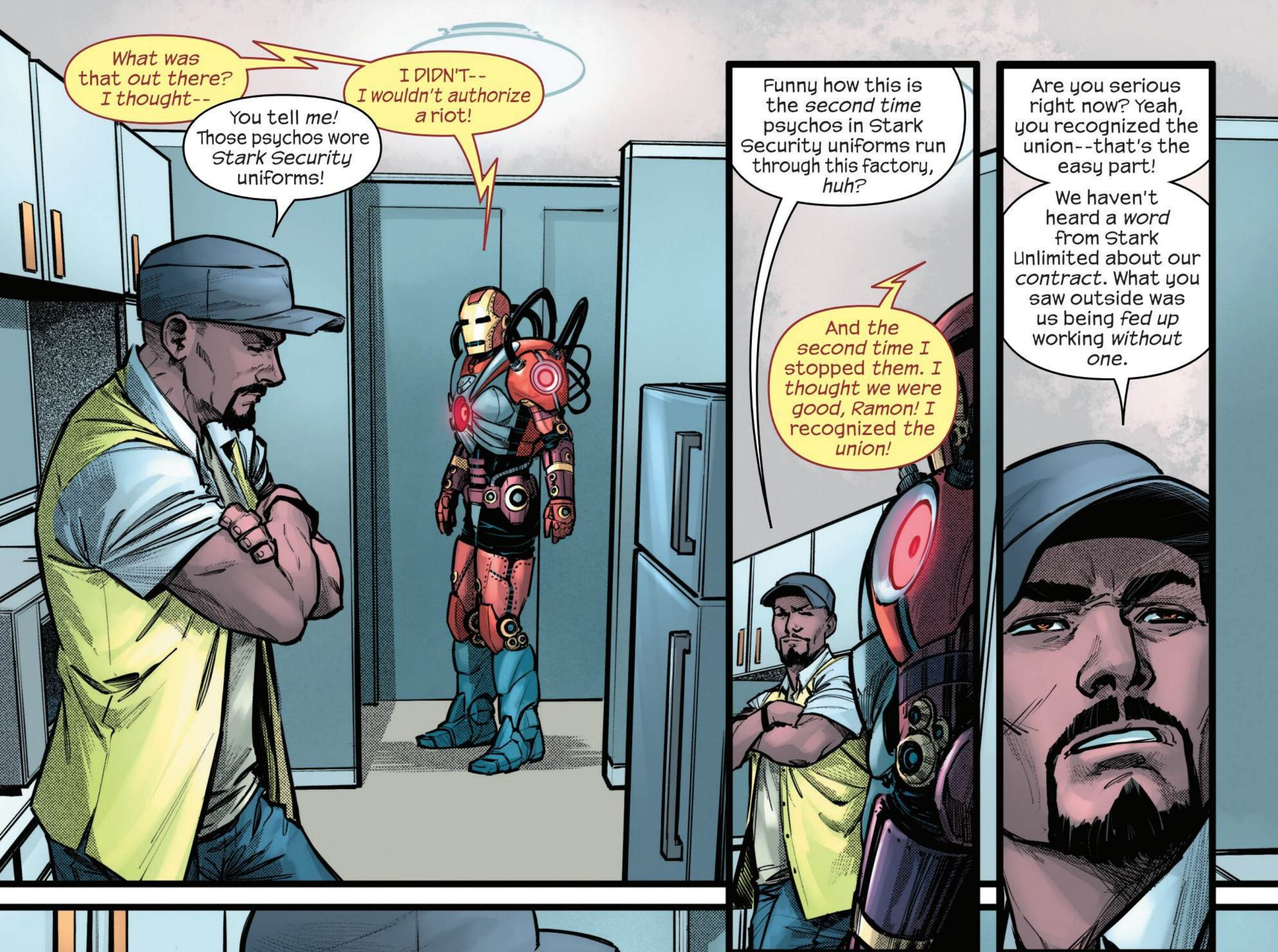
My God... Melinda, who did you hire?

I changed my mind. Stay where you are. I'm pressing charges.

Iron.GPT, get ambulances inbound. Then tell the sheriff to clear space in county. And to bring the wagon.



While that happens, you and I are gonna talk.





"Nah"?

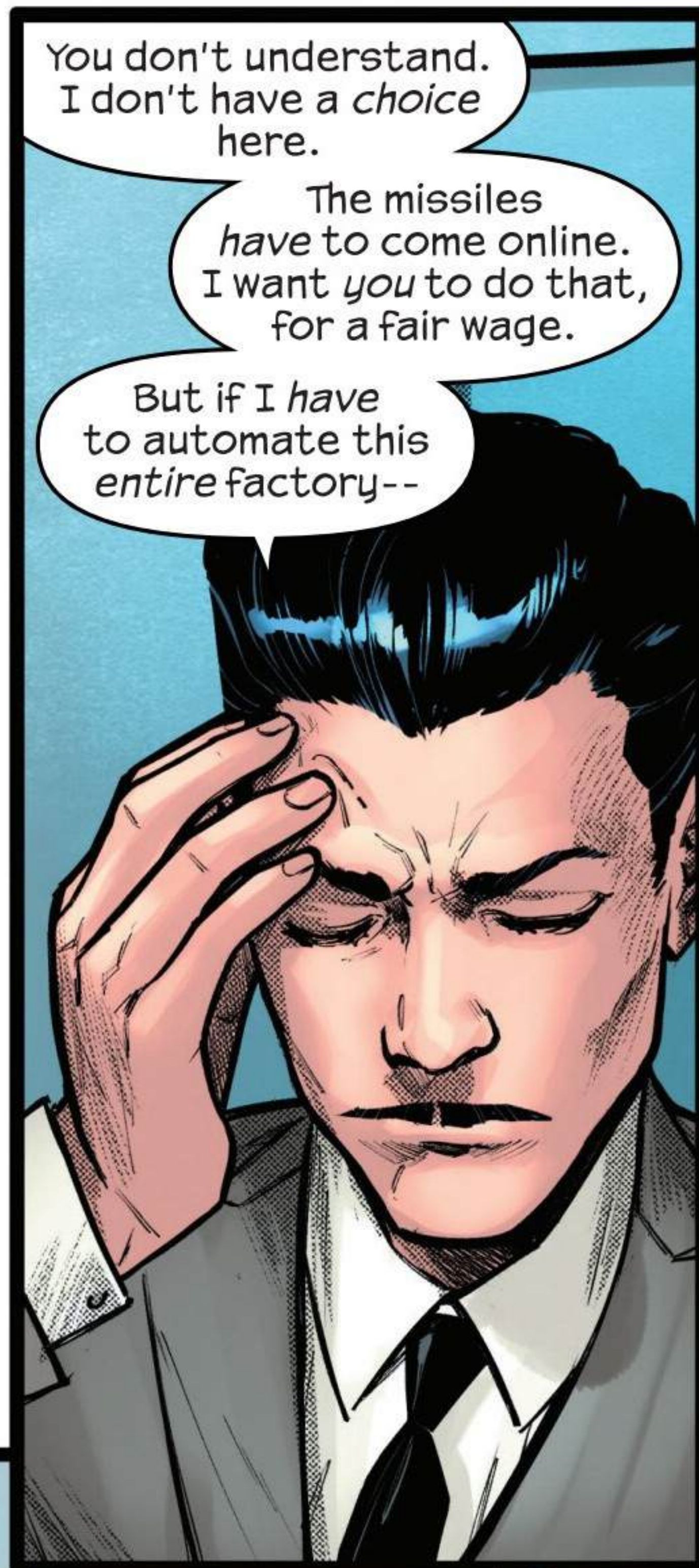
I have people out there who need *medical care* because of *your* thugs. You expect me to tell them to clock in?

Look. I can't really explain this to you, but if this factory doesn't get back to pumping out advanced artillery, war could break out.



Oh, I see. It's a matter of "national security." We have to go back to work *now*, under a contract to be signed *later*, or *Doctor Doom* is gonna--what?

Have his thugs attack our picket line?



You don't understand. I don't have a *choice* here.

The missiles *have* to come online. I want *you* to do that, for a fair wage.

But if I *have* to automate this *entire* factory--



Then you'll just *fire* eight hundred people? That's you *saving* us from *Doctor Doom*, huh?

No, Mister Stark. We're not working another *minute* without a contract. And the *price* just went up.

We have time. Our walkout fund *has* it like that. We got some *big* donations before we--



What did you say?

The fund got laced in advance. We're not *playing* with you, Iron M--



I'm going to need a brief sidebar and then we'll resume.

**MIDWOOD,
BROOKLYN.**





You lie...
...to my face...

TZZT

Oh, is the spy upset at a little disassembling?



This isn't a game!

Ttsschhhh!!!
Stop shooting at me!

TZZT



Stop talking. Listen to me.

What you are doing will get innocent people killed. You don't want to hear that, but it's true.



I remember you not having an answer when I asked what the alternative was.

No, you didn't like my answer.

So you instigate a strike? It was chaos, Nat.



I wasn't the one who got innocent people hurt today.

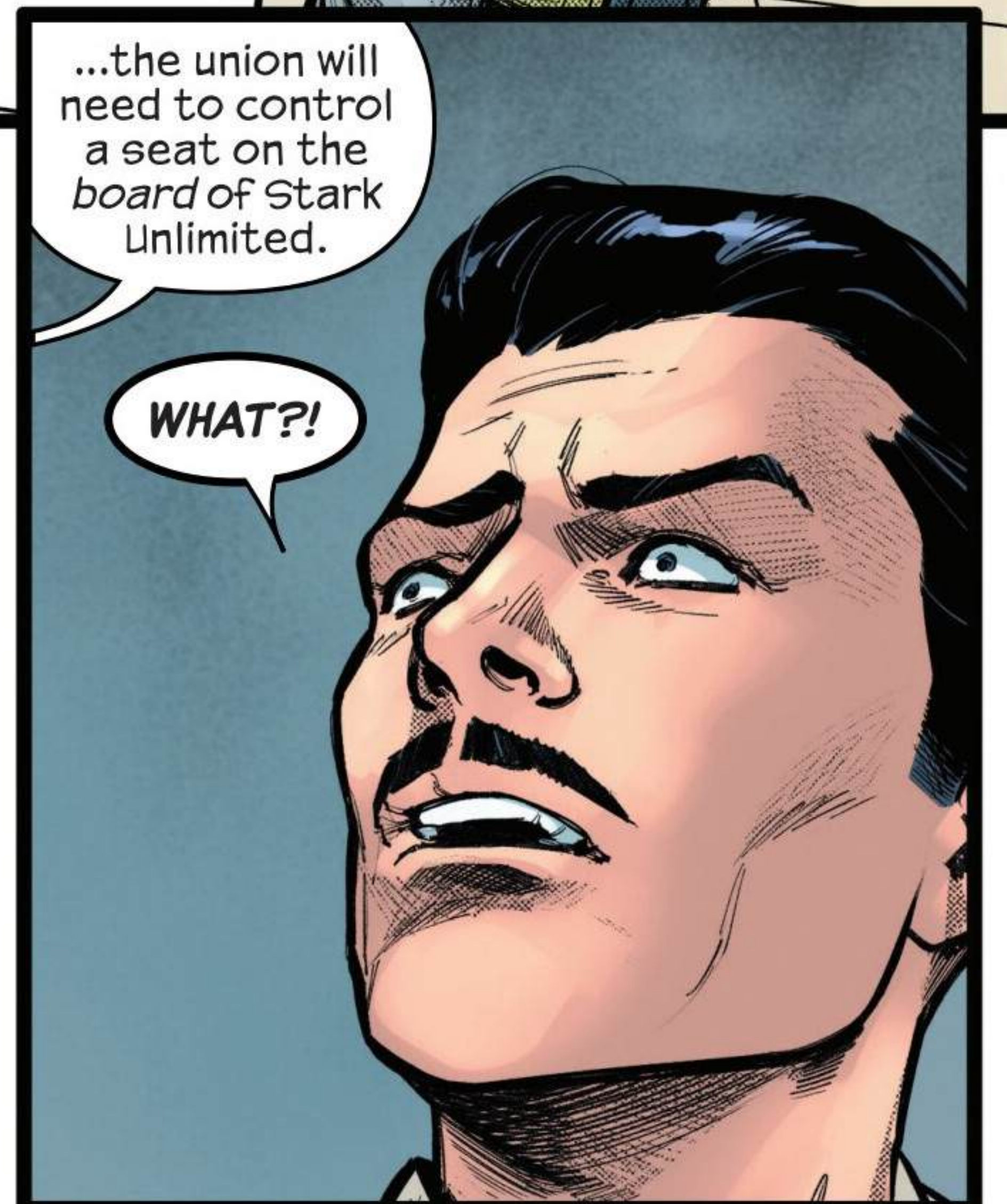
Tony, you can't hear yourself right now. Take it from someone who cares about you:

Yes, I moved money to the union's accounts. That's all I did. All I needed to do. Ask yourself why eight hundred employees of yours were so ready to strike.



You don't really want to be an arms dealer again, Tony. Shut this down.

Don't make me come back with the Avengers.





That's...
I just got control
over the board.
At great cost.

Ramon,
I told you
this was too
much.

Heh.
"Too much."

Actually,
you know
what? I do have
something to
say.



You were *born* rich.
You parlayed that into
wealth like I can't
imagine.

So much
that even if you
never put on your
Iron Man armor
again, you'll *still* be
one of the most
powerful people
there *is*.

And then you tell me
that having a say in what
this company *does*--which
you *told* me we would
have--is asking for
too much.

The same
company that
needs us to make
its weapons. The
same company that
can get *rid* of us
when we show our
strength.



You *tech* people.
You love "*disrupting*"
things. Except your
exploitation
of us.

Three
seats.



...What?

The board
is eight seats now.
We'll sign your contract
and reserve three seats
on the board for the
union.

Will that
get your people
back on the
line?



Three
seats
will.



Tony...

You just signed away control over one of the world's most powerful companies. I never thought a C.E.O.--

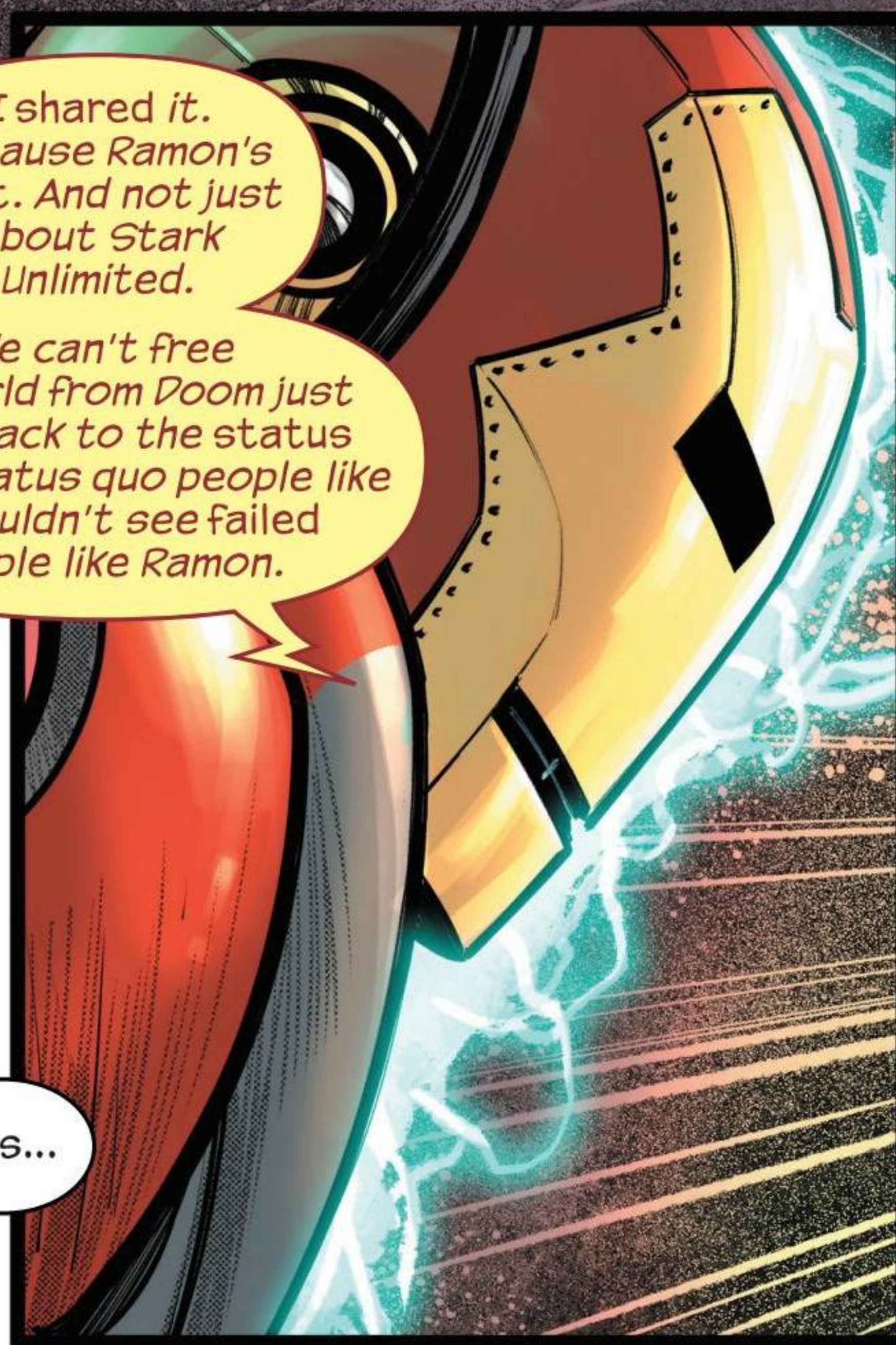
I didn't sign away control.



I shared it. Because Ramon's right. And not just about Stark Unlimited.

We can't free the world from Doom just to go back to the status quo. A status quo people like me couldn't see failed people like Ramon.

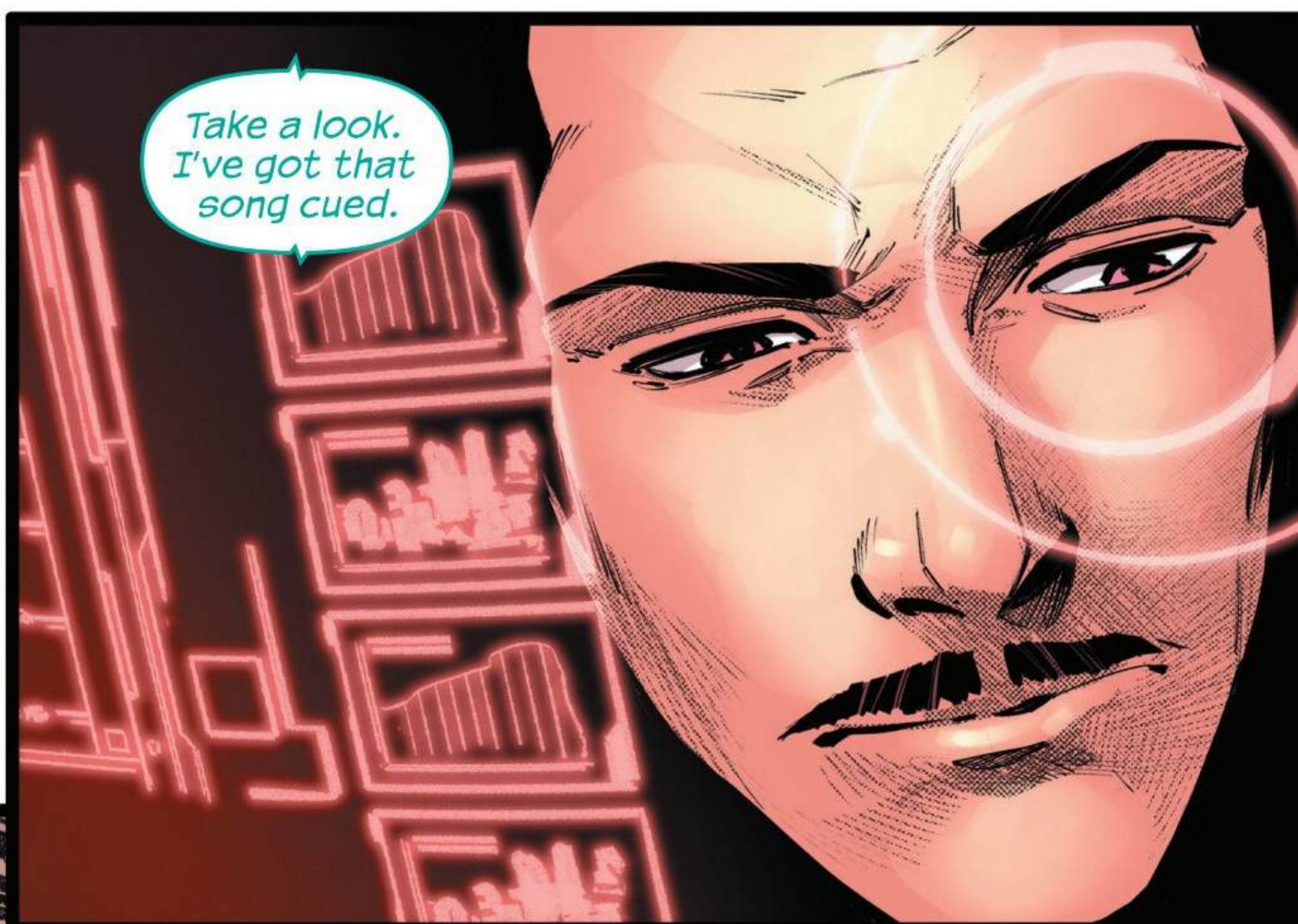
Yes...



If that's ever gonna change, people like me have to get on board. If we don't want to be pushed out of the way.

It's not a sacrifice if it comes easy.

Excuse me, Username, a message I ignored as a Russian phishing attempt might not be...



Take a look. I've got that song cued.



It's Red Widow! She has Melinda!

Iron Man. You are to listen very closely if you want to see Ms. May and Commander Hunyadi alive again...

I've got the power...



You're a hero, Iron Man, a real one...

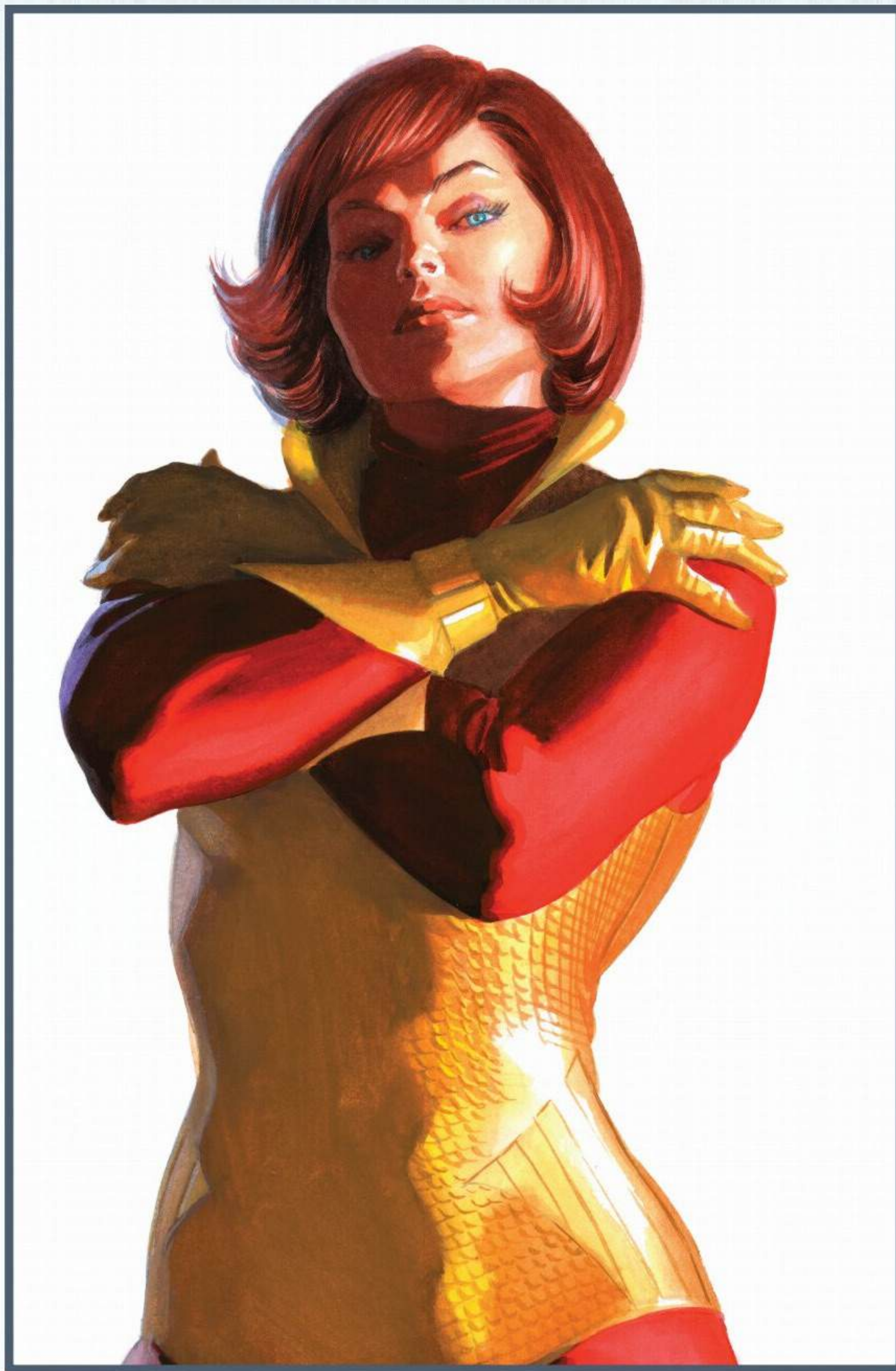
...and I'm going to save you.

Iron.GPT, get me a flight plan to her location! And turn that music off!





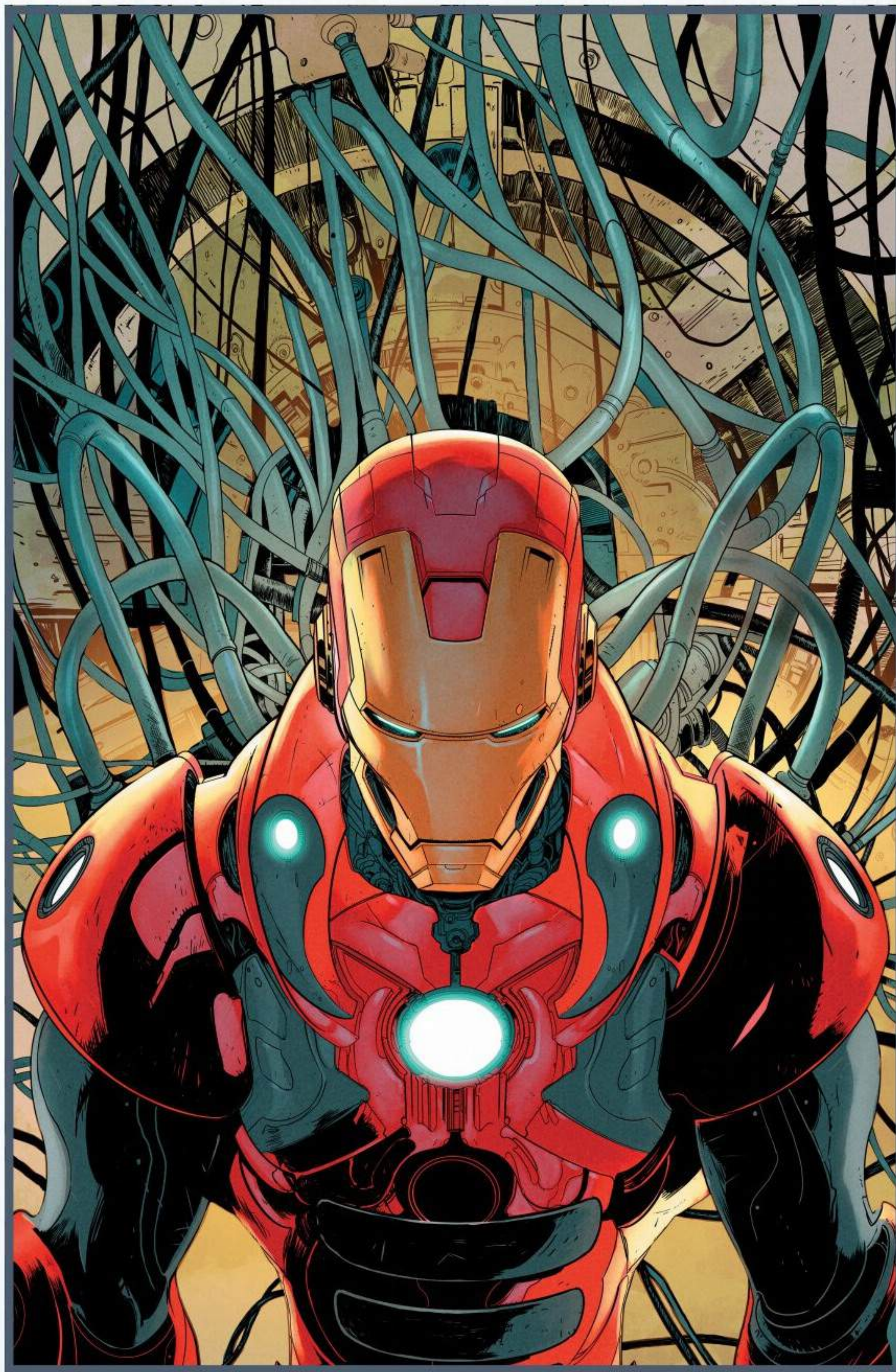
#8 TIMELESS SKETCH VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS



#8 TIMELESS VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS



#8 IMPOSSIBLE! VARIANT BY
RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA



#8 VARIANT BY
ADAM POLLINA & FEDERICO BLEE



NINE: GREAT-POWER COMPETITION

STARK TOWER, MANHATTAN.
UNITED PROVINCES OF LATVERIA.

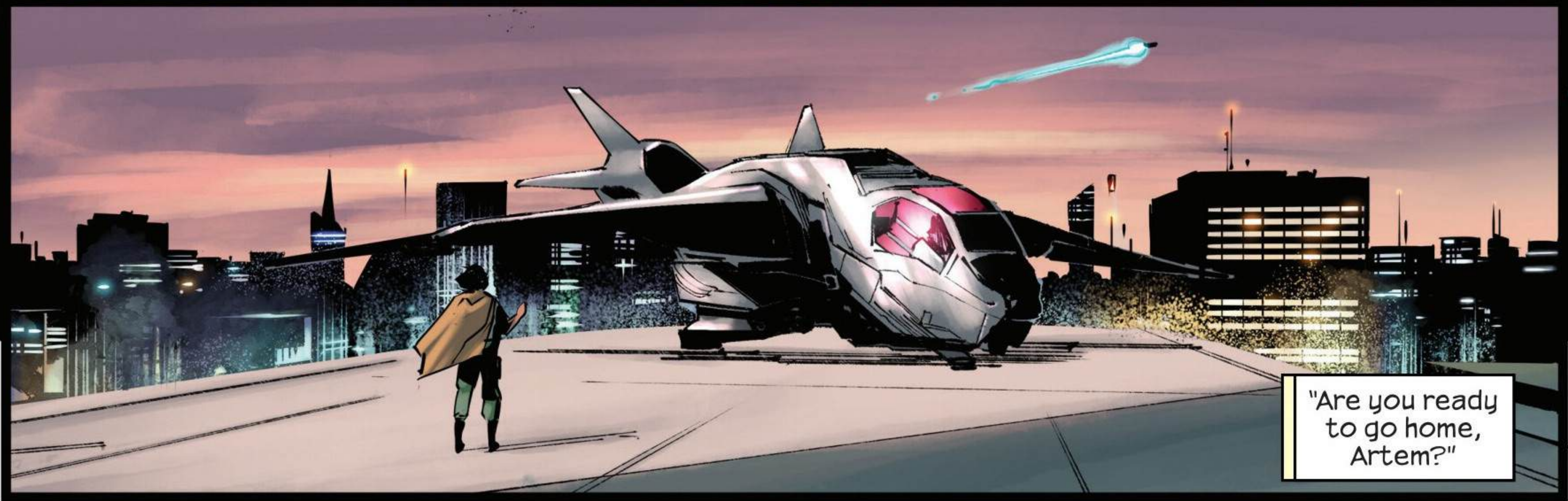
Vishte, wait
here for me.

I've got one
play to free Melinda
from Red Widow and salvage
what I can of the Doom
operation. But it all depends
on a certain someone
playing her part...

...and I
don't know if
she will.

If not, it was
nice knowing you.
Tell the board that
Riri gets the company
when she's old
enough.

You'll get it
done, Iron Man.
I'll be ready when
you return.



"Are you ready
to go home,
Artem?"



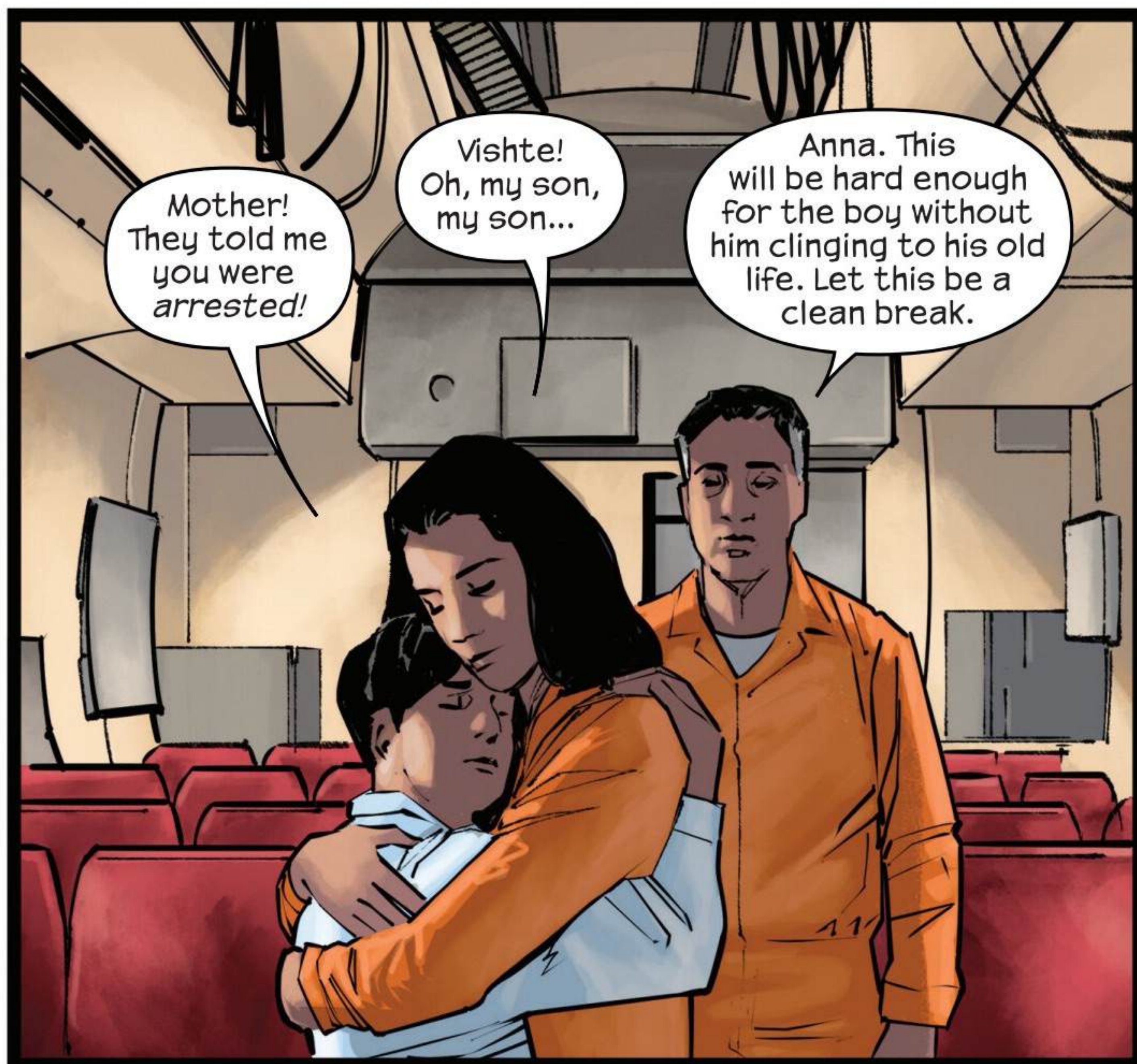
What
did you call
me?

No matter.
Your parents
are on that
plane.

They'll
explain
everything
to you.



SYMKARIA.
MANY YEARS AGO.



Mother! They told me you were arrested!

Vishte! Oh, my son, my son...

Anna. This will be hard enough for the boy without him clinging to his old life. Let this be a clean break.



Father! I'm so confused--what do you mean? Why do you not call Mama by her name?

Listen to me, son. Today is a glorious day.



"Today, we return home as heroes."



Heroes? Father, they detained me! And why would they put us on this plane instead of driving us home?

Because our home is not in Symkaria. It is in *Latveria*, my son. Your mother and I are intelligence officers in service of our motherland. And its rightful lord, *Victor Von Doom*.



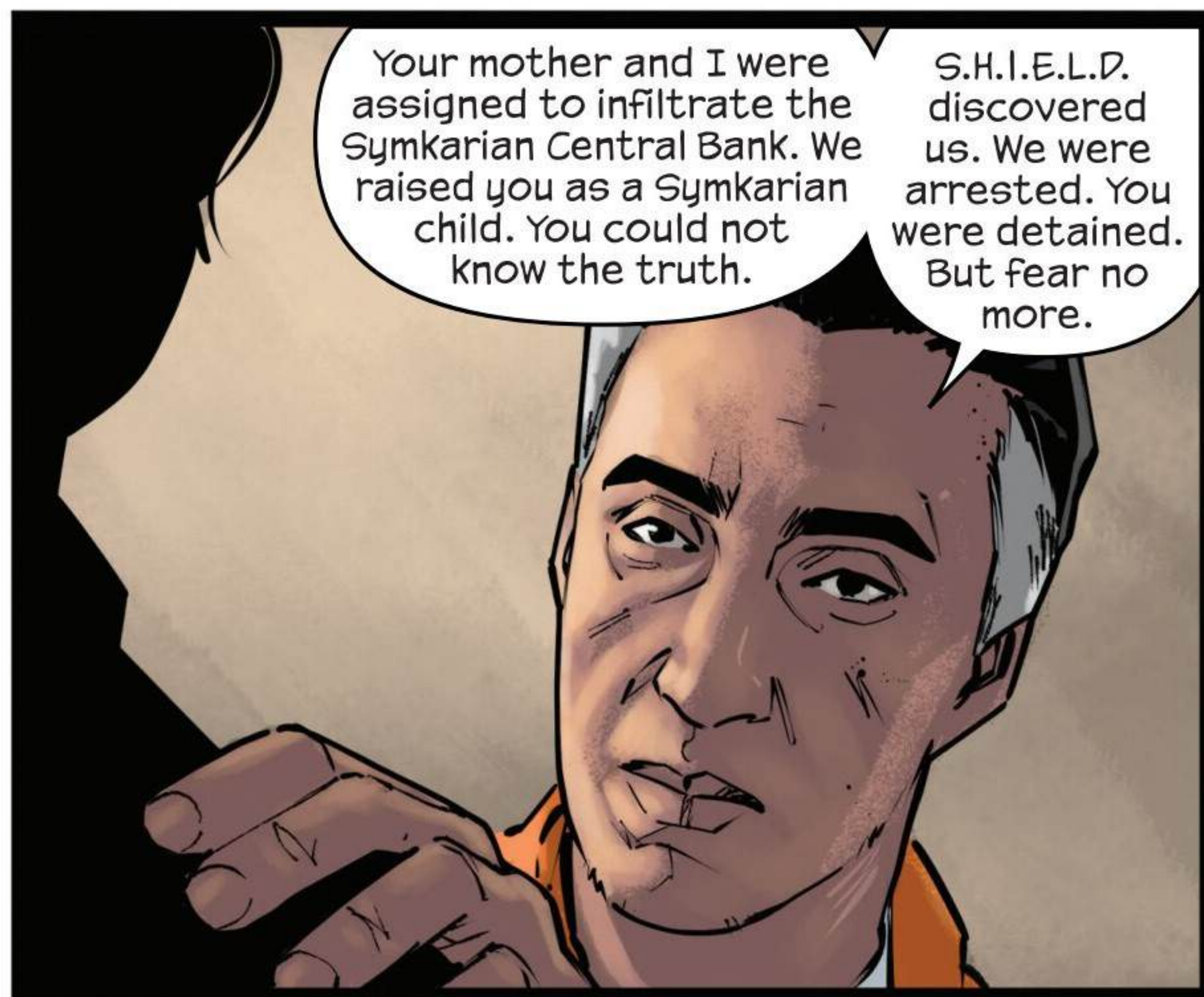
"Your name has never been *Vishte Taru*."

LATVERIA



What...what are you saying?

You are Artem. How long I have waited to call you by your *Latverian* name, my son.

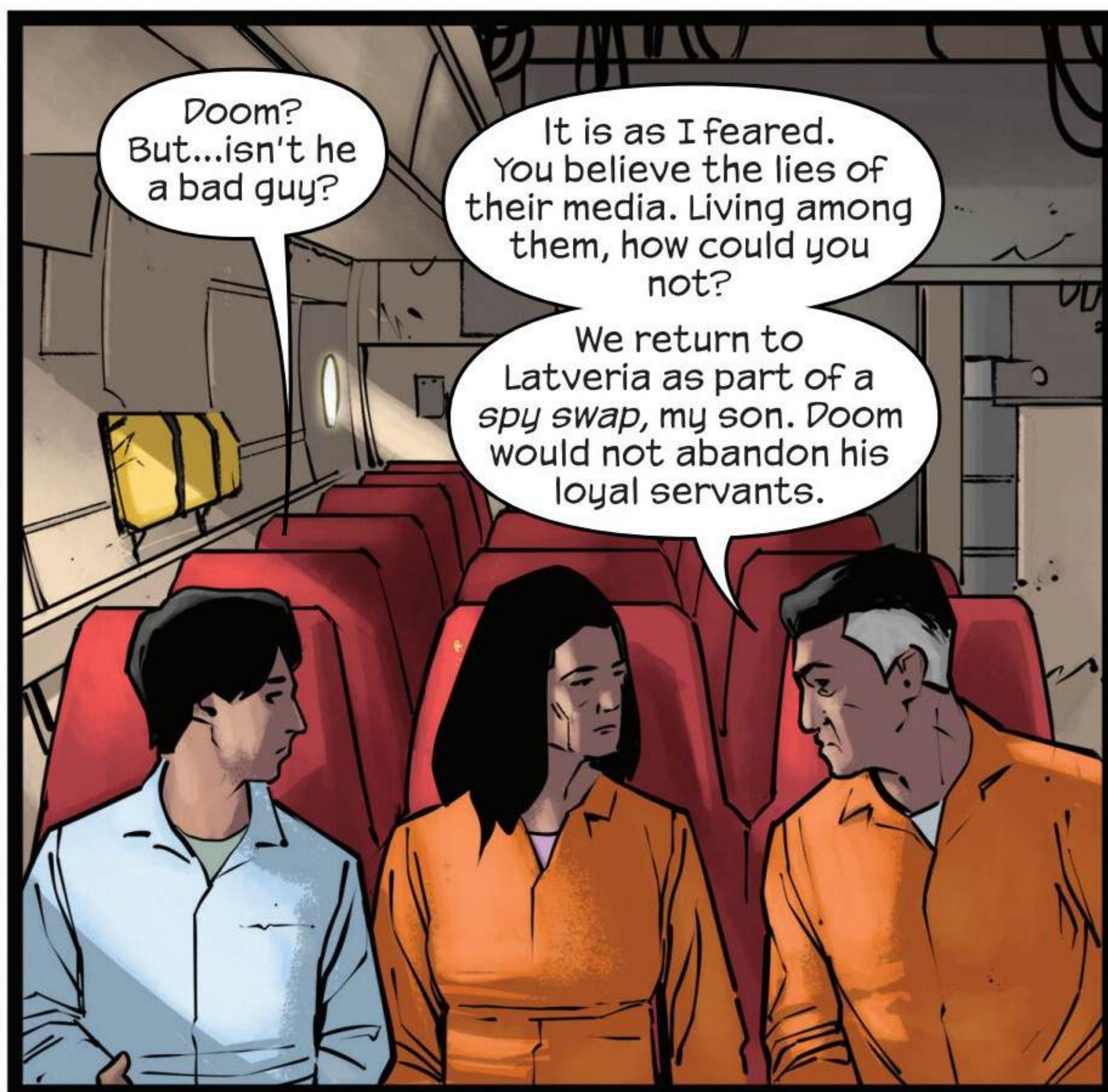


Your mother and I were assigned to infiltrate the Symkarian Central Bank. We raised you as a Symkarian child. You could not know the truth.

S.H.I.E.L.D. discovered us. We were arrested. You were detained. But fear no more.



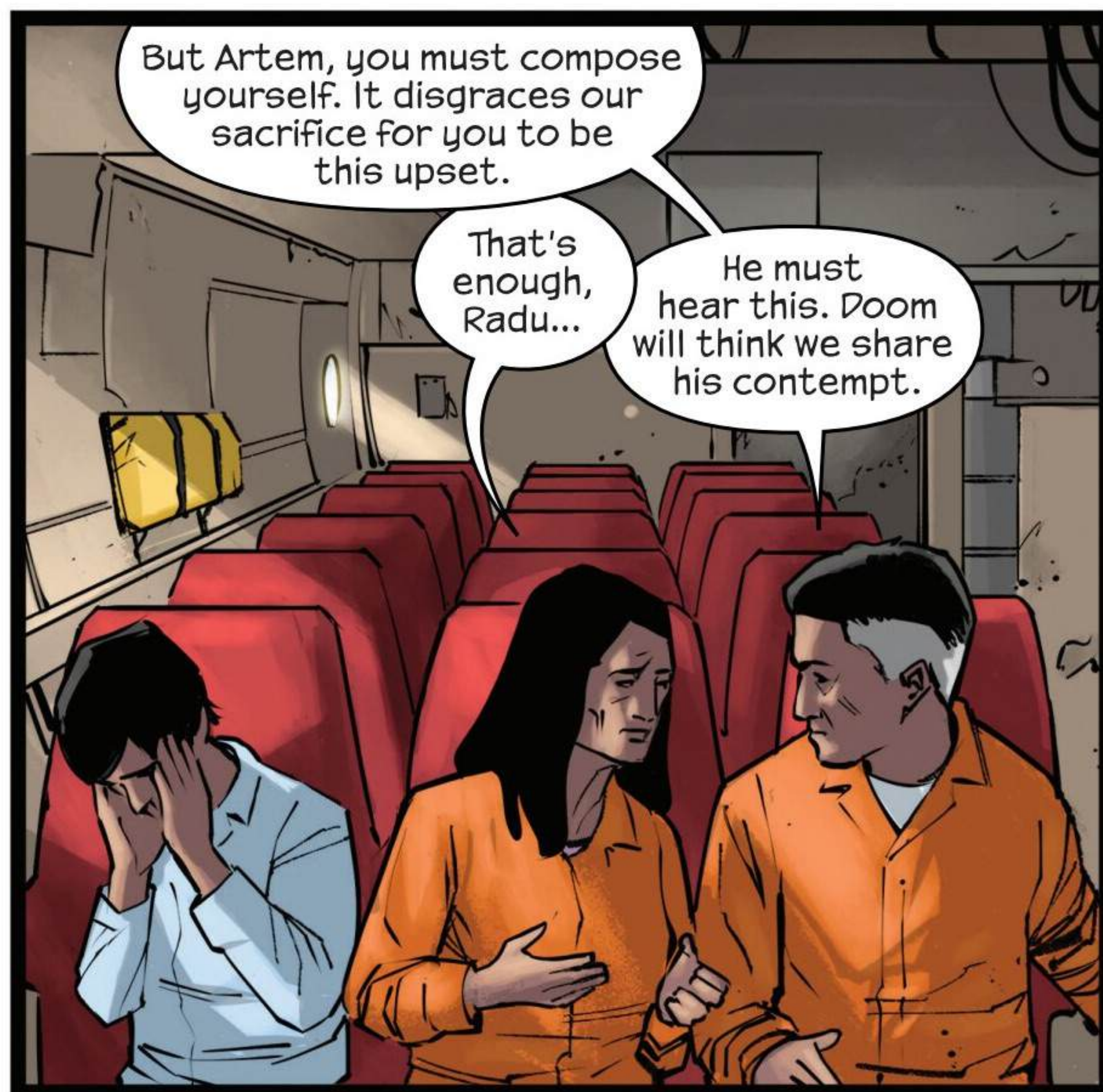
"Doom has given us our life back."



Doom? But...isn't he a bad guy?

It is as I feared. You believe the lies of their media. Living among them, how could you not?

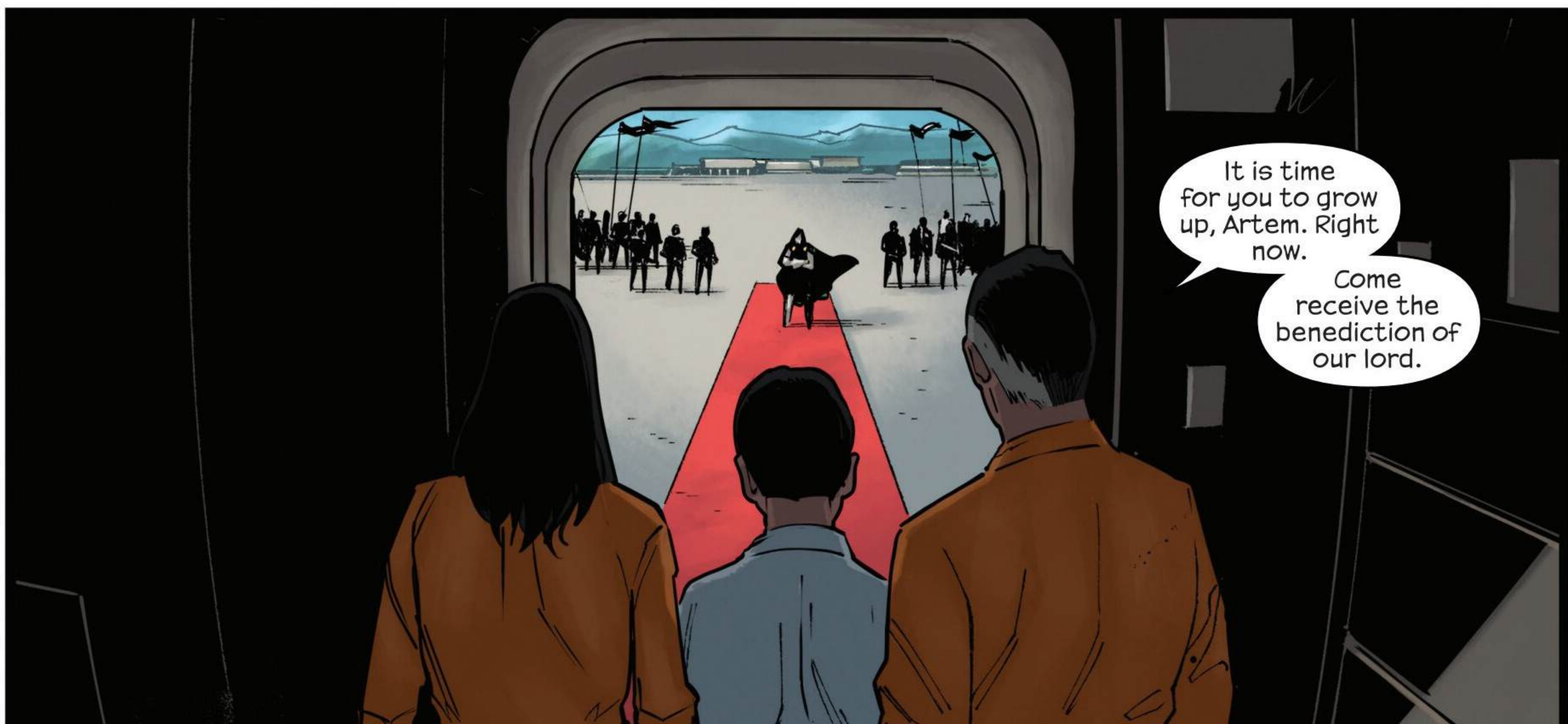
We return to Latveria as part of a *spy swap*, my son. Doom would not abandon his loyal servants.



But Artem, you must compose yourself. It disgraces our sacrifice for you to be this upset.

That's enough, Radu...

He must hear this. Doom will think we share his contempt.



It is time for you to grow up, Artem. Right now.

Come receive the benediction of our lord.



Sniff

Artem, you are to stop that before he sees!

Heroes of beloved Latveria...



...know your service has honored Doom.



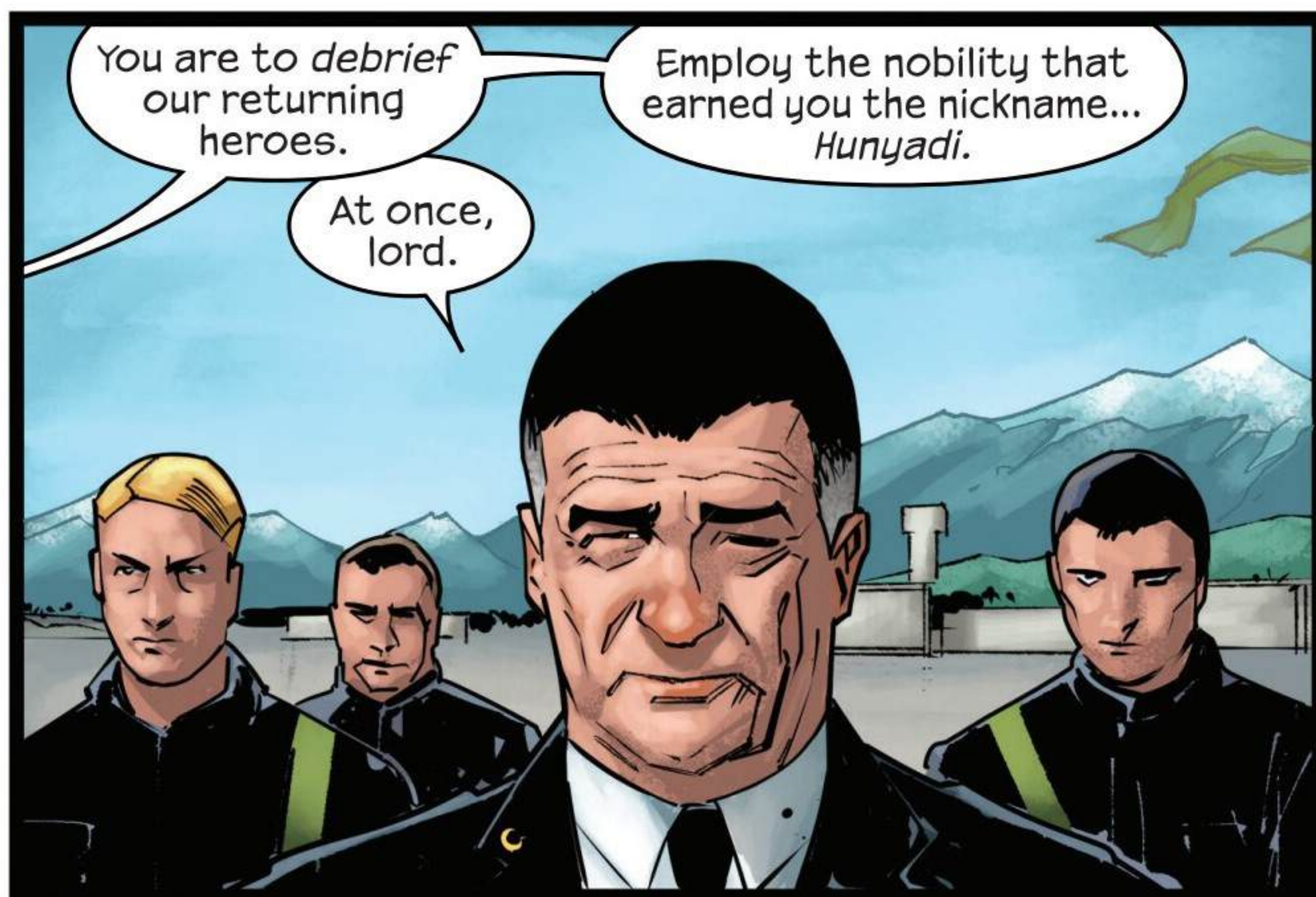
"We shall spare no expense as we resettle you in quarters reflecting our gratitude."

"For too long have you been denied the warmth of your motherland."



Thank you, Lord Doom! Never did we lose faith in--

General Lokot.



You are to *debrief* our returning heroes.

At once, lord.

Employ the nobility that earned you the nickname... *Hunyadi*.



Of course, lord.

No! Where are you taking them?!

We just need to...explain ourselves, my love. I will see you...soon.



Courage, young Latverian.



"This will all be over soon."

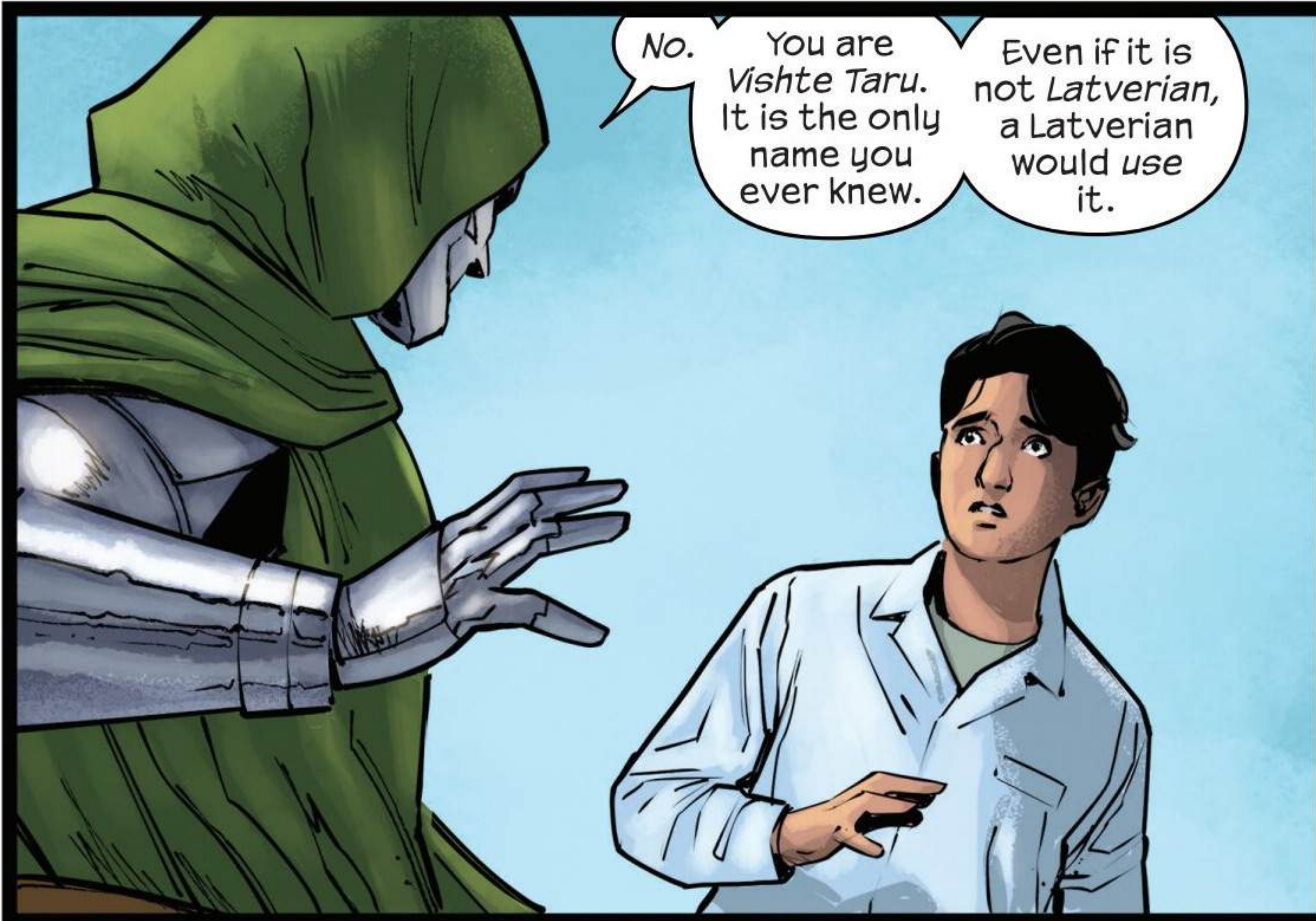


"Your father tells me you are Artem?"



Yes, um, aye, Lord Doom. I--I am.

Artem.



No.

You are *Vishte Taru*. It is the only name you ever knew.

Even if it is not *Latverian*, a *Latverian* would use it.

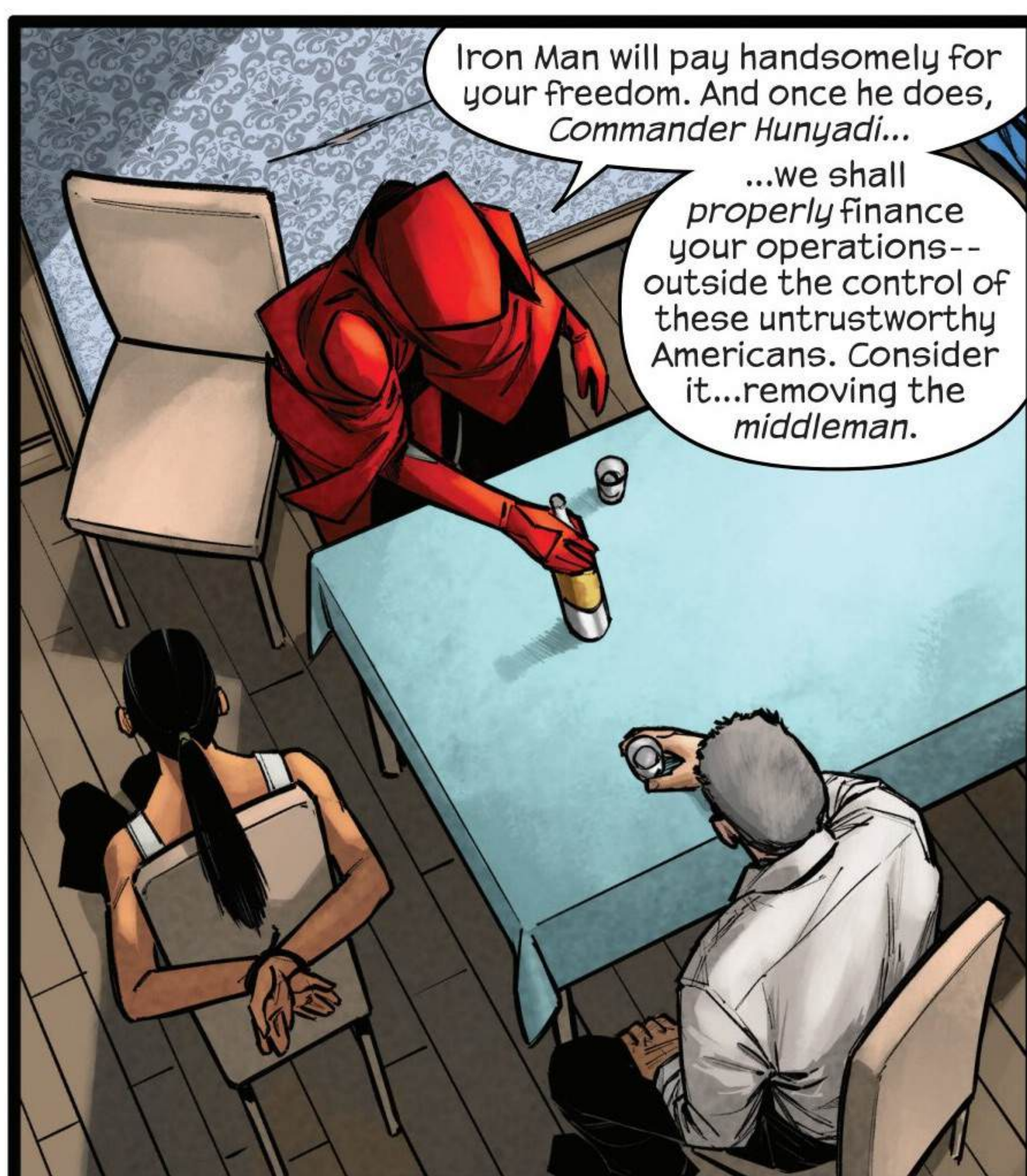


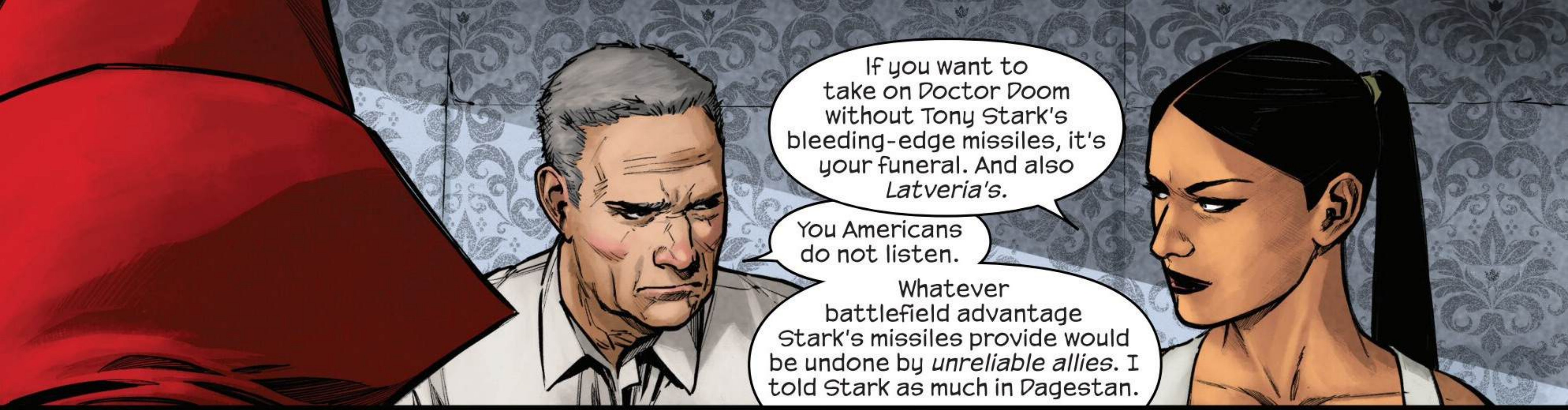
Latveria's youth are often Doom's strongest soldiers--even if they do not share his *blood*. What am I to do with a subject who cannot be true to themselves in a crisis?

Your parents have given me no *Latverian*.



"They shall explain to me why."

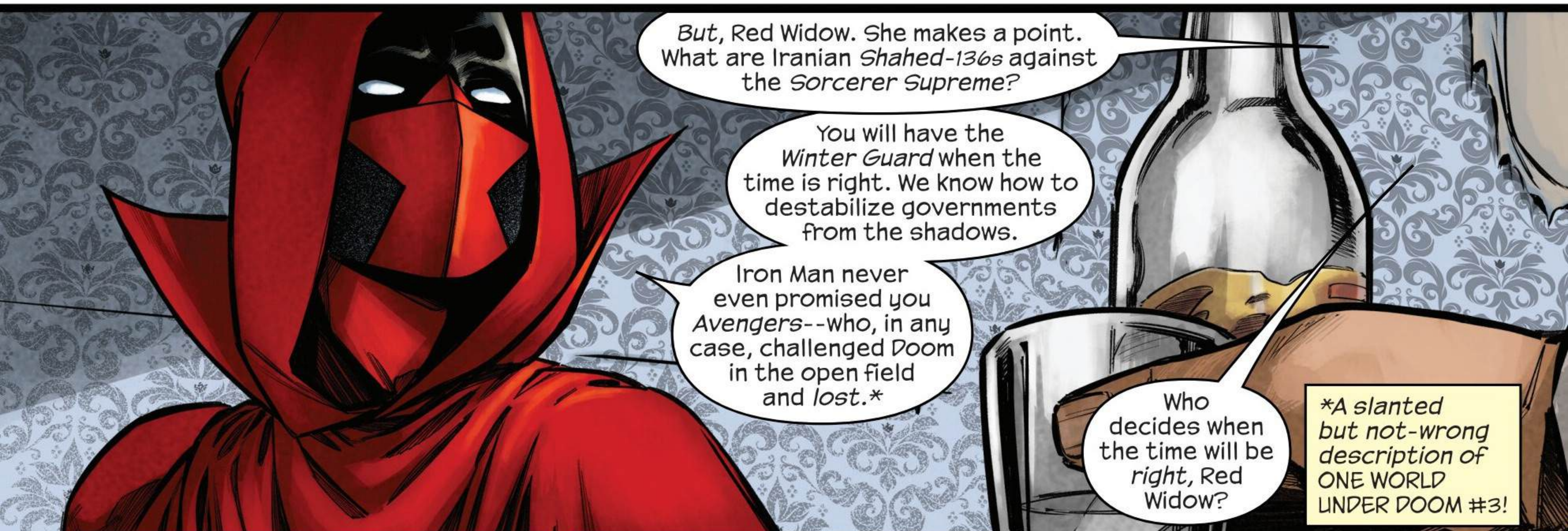




If you want to take on Doctor Doom without Tony Stark's bleeding-edge missiles, it's your funeral. And also Latveria's.

You Americans do not listen.

Whatever battlefield advantage Stark's missiles provide would be undone by *unreliable allies*. I told Stark as much in Dagestan.



But, Red Widow. She makes a point. What are Iranian *Shahed-136s* against the *Sorcerer Supreme*?

You will have the *Winter Guard* when the time is right. We know how to destabilize governments from the shadows.

Iron Man never even promised you *Avengers*--who, in any case, challenged Doom in the open field and *lost*.*

Who decides when the time will be right, Red Widow?

*A slanted but not-wrong description of ONE WORLD UNDER DOOM #3!



We both shall, Commander Hunyadi, as allies...

Agent May, you must eat. The Red Widow would like nothing more than to stick that tube down your throat.

But not you, huh? You're the good cop here? My friend?



I would not insult the intelligence of the legendary *Cavalry*. I offer instead the courtesy of professionals. Why not try Baku street food?

...Spaciba.
<The reputation of the *Crimson Dynamo* precedes you.>*

<But honor tastes better than döner.>

*Translated from the Russian.



Snnrrf-- Are we--is there döner here?

Vanguard. We are overdue a perimeter sweep as it is. Return with supper.

At once, Commander.

Azeri döner? Splendid!



<The people's champion, reduced to fetching dinner for the scheming red witch.>

<At least Laynia Petrovna is spared this indignity...>





<Traitor! Disgrace!
To give the Americans
what the Red Room
made is-->

<--unforgiv--
aaahhhhhhhhhhh!!!>



<Then take it back
from me, you poor
imitation.>

Unnnnnhhhh!

Hey!

ZZZZZ-
KRK!



Widow! Untie me!
Black Widow!

<Deluded little sister,
one day you will either
see Red Room for the
cancer it is...>

<...or you will
die wondering how
your service did
not spare
you!>

<Is that
what you tell
yourself in the
mirror? That
you were a
victim?>



<Self-pity
must sound so
comforting in
English!>

Colonel Vasilescu!
I'm afraid it's not a
good time!

Wait, how are
you able to get a
call past Doom's
dome?

I don't
know, Hunyadi,
providence, perhaps--
for you must
see this!



Nat!
Dynamo's
down!

BHHHH

Uhhhhh...

Doom must
have discovered
us! Dark magic--it
burns everywhere!
My family is
dead!



There,
I have sent
you th-->

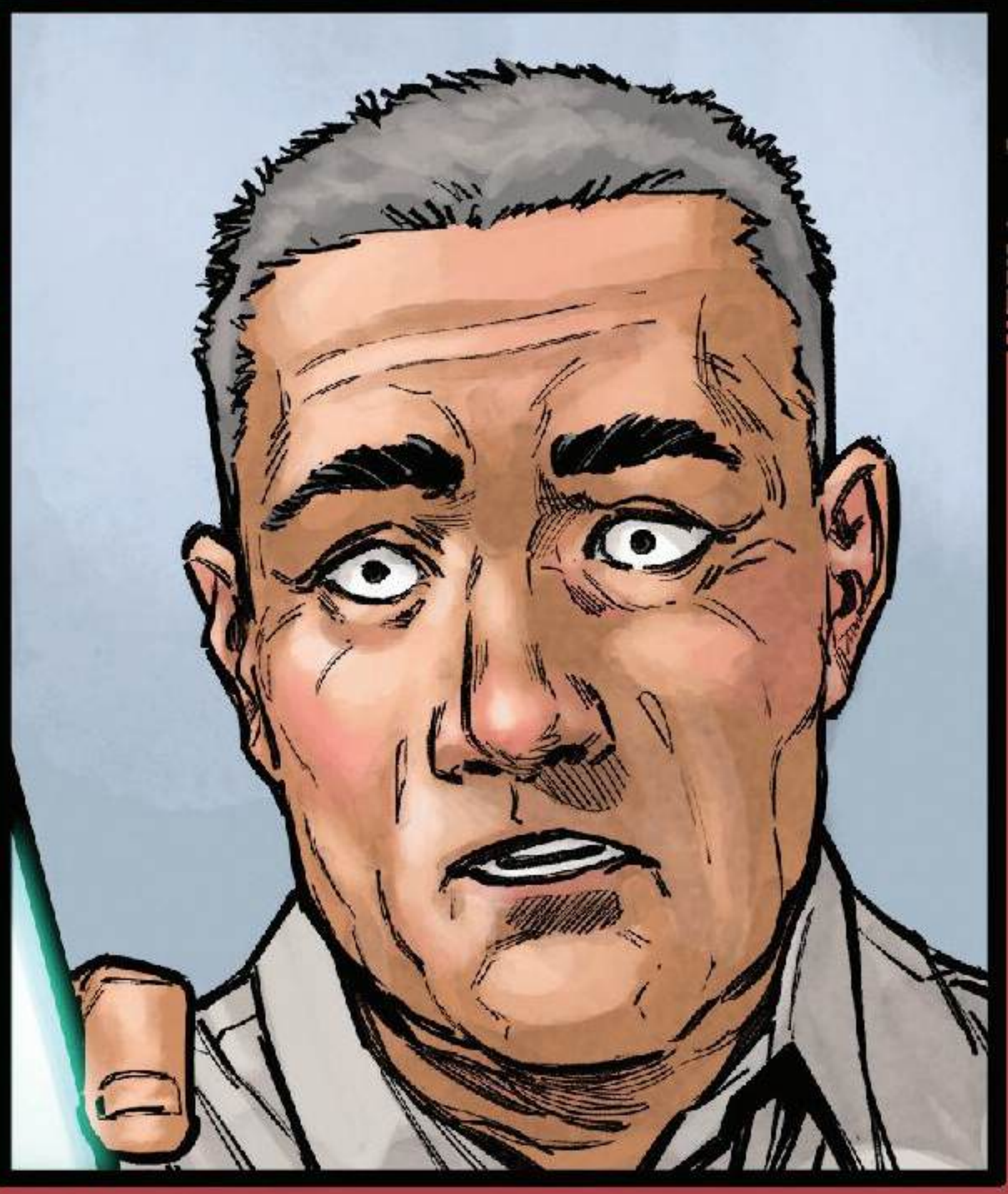
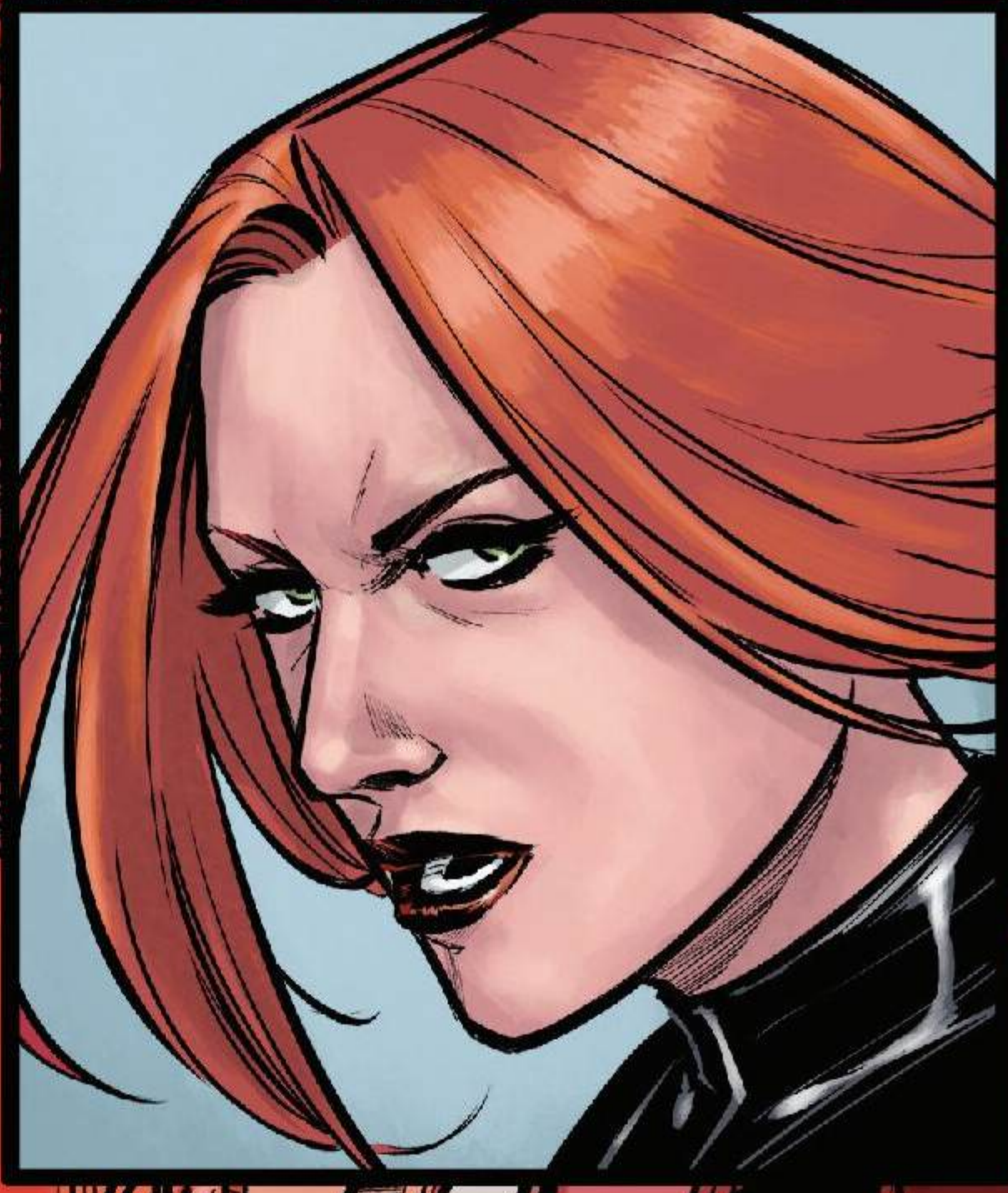
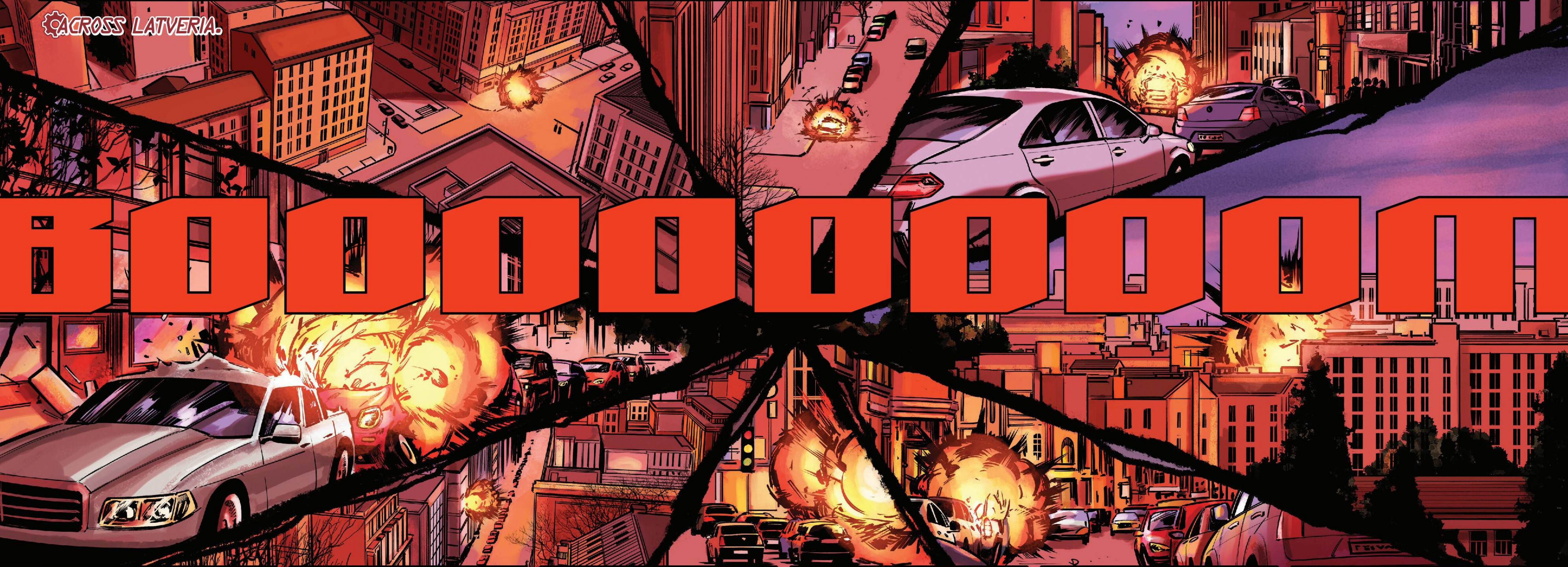
BEEEEEEEEPPPPP

Vasilescu!
Can you hear--?!
Oh! No! NO!!!

Everyone!
Stop! Look what's
happening in
Latveria!!!



ACROSS LATVERIA.





Are you insane or just a pathological liar? Did those look like missile strikes to you?

Iron Man is a weapons merchant again--he must have done this!

That was magic. Doom is Sorcerer Supreme. Tony would never do such a thing, even if he somehow could.

The Army...gone... She... I told her to send a, a software update...to the phones the regime and the Army use...

There isn't a software update in the world that can send *explosives*! We just watched people *without* phones burning!

I don't understand-- I--I must sit down...

Of course, commander. My heart aches for your country. We are all Latverians today.

We will learn *how* Stark betrayed you in due course. But know he *must* have--

Pathetic. Fumbling in the dark for an absurd narrative. Anything to keep your *schemes* afloat.

Has there ever been a tragedy you didn't seek to exploit?





That's enough out of you.



James--? What are you wearing?



Dmitri wasn't using his armor. He's unconscious.

And I figured fighting these guys meant fighting a bear, so: Winter Dynamo.



Very well. I shall kill all of you myself.

Will you two free me already? I can take her!

Then why--



--isn't she the one tied up-- oof!

Nat, this armor is slow--



Nat!!!

James!!!



Red Widow! Your terror ends here!

...What?

Bozhe moi...

...What the absolute &%\$#?

Murderer!
Your Emperor's
most loyal servants,
slain by your treachery,
in their own
homeland!

No!
That is
a lie!

Silence!

When Iron Man
told us you were
collaborating with
the terrorist traitor
Hunyadi, I thought
it American
disinformation--

--but then, once
you shed blood across
our beloved country, I
gathered us all and took us
here as fast as the *Power
Cosmic* could convey--only
to find you with the fiend
and Stark's agent
trussed up!

Be grateful,
murderer, that it is
Victorious you meet
today--for Emperor
Doom would burn all
of Russia for your
crimes!

Nat?
What are
you doing
here?

Dmitri...
don't even think
about getting in my
way. I'm not in the
mood for round
2 with you.

Well, I don't
know, Tone, I have
my questions about
what you're doing
with Doom...

I've been
surveilling Red Widow
since before Dagestan! We
came here to stop her!
Tony, what the %\$#& is
going on???

You can't
believe Iron Man's
lies, Lady
Victorious!

They're
not lies!

Lady Victorious,
the Russians ambushed
me! Red Widow has made
a deal with the Latverian
Patriotic Front to
overthrow the
Emperor!

I...I...

<Curse
that bear for
falling on that
camera!>*

*Back in
IRON MAN #6! --ed

Bucky???
You're wearing the
Dynamo?

Iron Man!
Bring me their
heads!

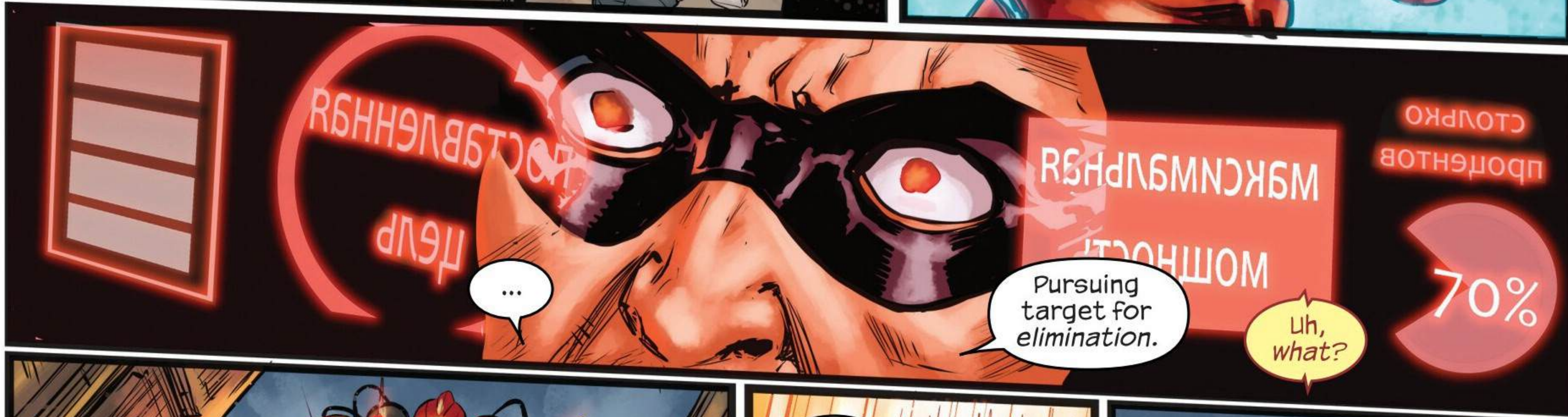
AAAAHHH!!!

Is anyone
going to %\$#& untie me?!

Courage,
Commander
Hunyadi!

We must
not wait here for
Iron Man's lies
to kill us!

Right now, Buck,
you and I are going
to save Mother
Russia.







My God...all those people. All that death.

This is a nightmare.

Right now, Tony, explain what's going on! She said you're arming Doom!

The man who #&%\$#@# nuked Shelbyville and blamed it on me!

Tony. You have lied to me. I need the truth. Right now.

Was this you? The terror attack in Latveria?

Of course it wasn't, Nat. And I haven't armed Doom, Bucky...yet. This is a double-cross.

I contacted Victorious after Red Widow kidnapped Melinda and Hunyadi. My only play was to turn the tables.

End the LPF instead of setting them up to die through attrition fighting Doom--all while pinning it on the Winter Guard. Poor planning by Red Widow...

But then, we saw...all those explosions...

...and Victorious teleported us here. All that death...and Doom still in power.

Plan B. Doom still buys my weapons. I can put the Iron Monger's magic malware in his systems...

"Plan B"? You're out of your #&%\$#@ mind if you think I'm letting you go to "Plan B"!

I warned you, Tony. I told you not to get involved with those monsters! And now you're stuck selling weapons to Doom! What were you thinking?

You know what...? I think I understand now.

When you put those parts of your armor on me, I felt so angry. A rage so deep it was like...when I used to be controlled.

No more lies. What is that armor? Did you know what it would do to me?

He did not, Winter Soldier. The armor is the Iron Monger. Spells run through it. Dark magic.

It is as the Scarlet Witch warned.* The spells corrupt the wearer of the armor.

Bucky, I'm so sorry, I didn't think... I...I thought if I just wore pieces of the Iron Monger, not the whole thing, I could...manage it.

I needed power... the Improved Armor wasn't powerful enough...not to stop Doom.

*Wanda ran a magical diagnostic of the Iron Monger in IRON MAN #4. --ed

Do not blame yourself, Iron Man. You are a hero.

And I will save you.



Tony!
Vishte, what
are you doing
to him?!

You will feel
better after this,
Tony. *Clearheaded*
again.

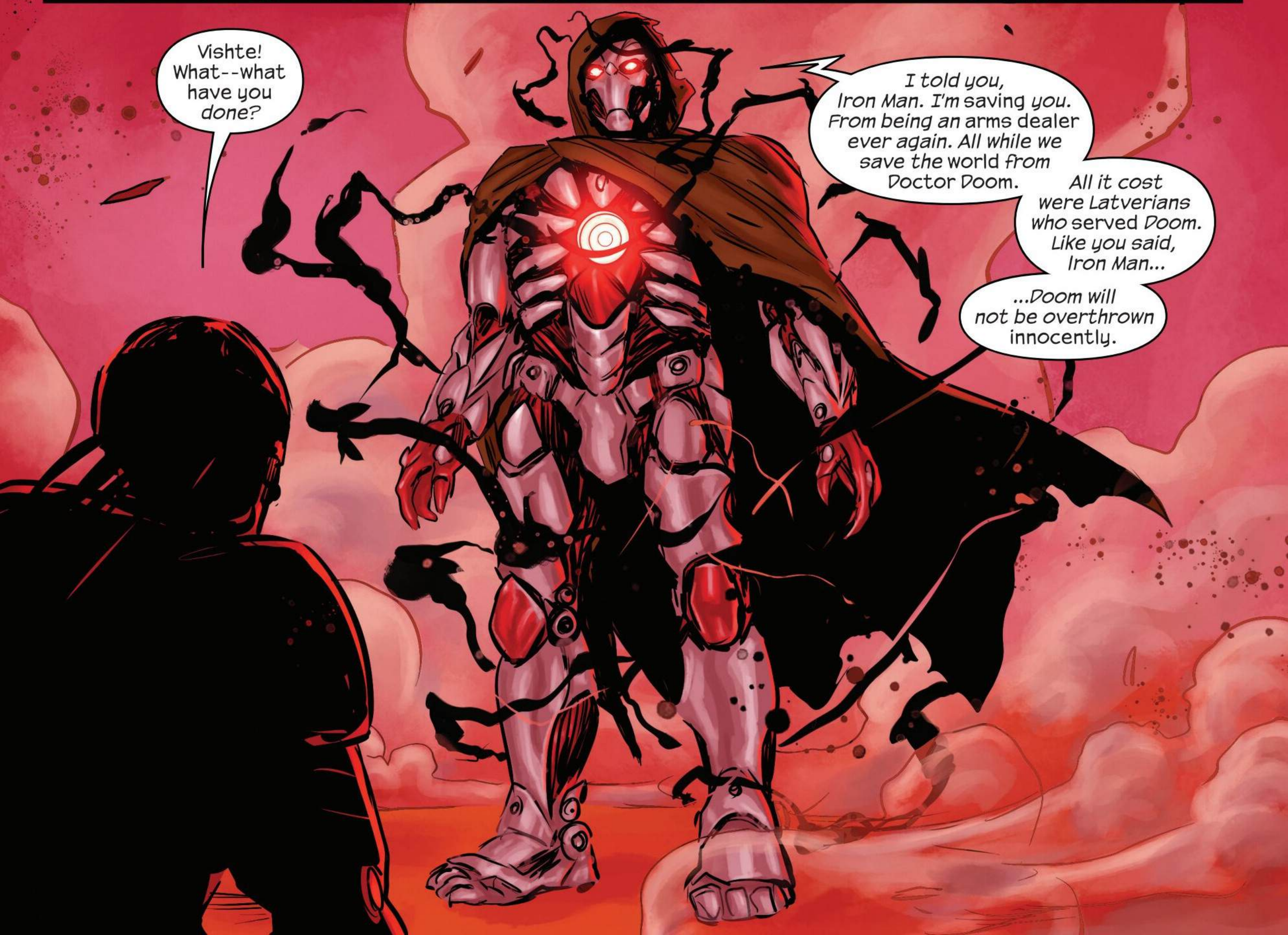
For we are
in a stronger
position than
you *think*.

HHHHH!
HHHHH!



I have borrowed
power, enough for us
to wipe *Doom* from
existence.

Enough
to reign in
Latveria.

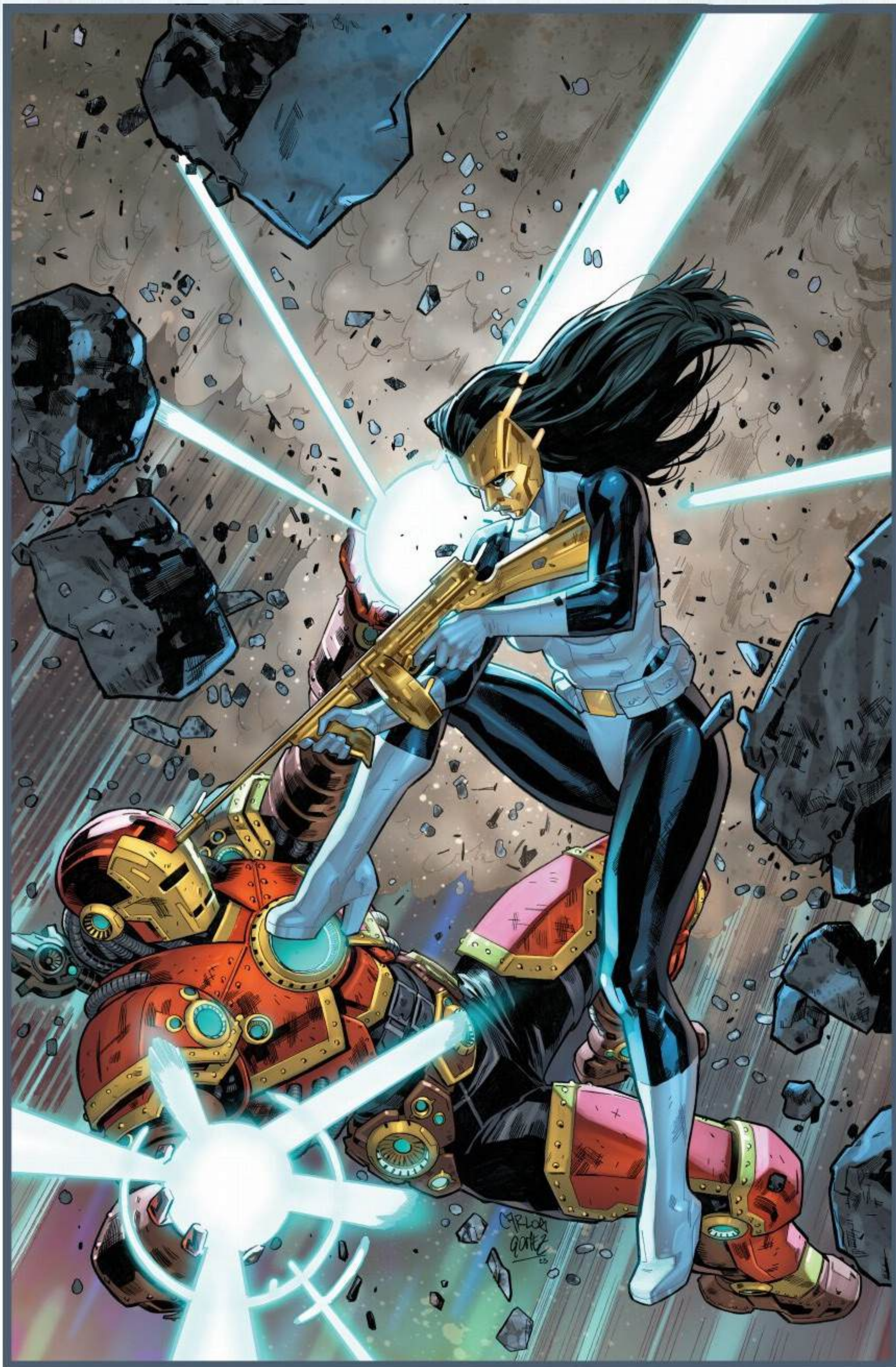


Vishte!
What--what
have you
done?

I told you,
Iron Man. I'm saving you.
From being an arms dealer
ever again. All while we
save the world from
Doctor Doom.

All it cost
were *Latverians*
who served *Doom*.
Like you said,
Iron Man...

...*Doom* will
not be overthrown
innocently.



#9 BRING ON THE BAD GUYS VARIANT BY
CARLOS GÓMEZ & JESUS ABURTOV



#9 VARIANT BY
ARIO ANINDITO



#10 RETROVISION VARIANT BY
ANNIE WU



#10 VARIANT BY
JIM MAHFOOD & MIKE SPICER



TEN: CHARISMATIC MEN OF DESTINY

BAKU, THE LATVERIAN PROVINCE
OF AZERBAIJAN.

THE REMAINS OF A
WINTER GUARD SAFE HOUSE.

Vishte...

Did you
just say you
killed all those
people in
Latveria...

...and
you killed
them to save
me?

This is
what victory
looks like,
Iron Man...



It's horrible.
We should never
grow accustomed to it.
It doesn't bring
me pride.

But real
victory is now
at hand.

Most of
Doom's army is gone.
His hold on Latveria
is enfeebled. With the
power I now possess,
this nightmare can be
over. But we must
act quickly.

This is what
you wanted.
This is what
we talked
about.

Only now we can
accomplish it without
you having to make
weapons again.

Without you
having to sell them to
Doom, so they could fill the
arsenals of army insurgents
loyal only to a
terror group.

That
wasn't--
I had it
under control--

Tony...

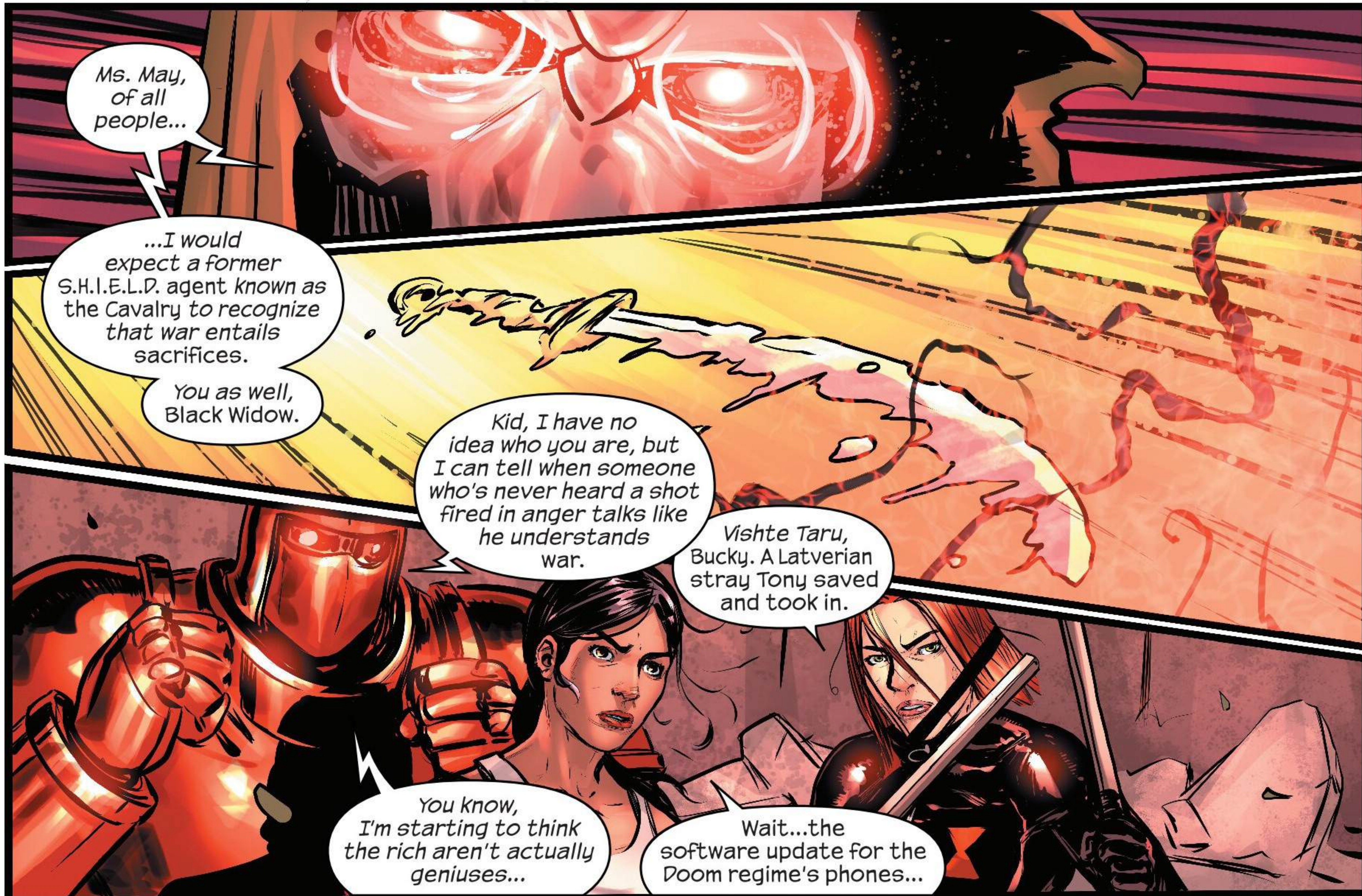
Did you think
no one was going to die
when the Latverian Patriotic Front
used your missiles for the long war
against Doom you positioned
them to fight?

You would
have killed far
more Latverians than
those who died
today.

And
now that
doesn't have
to--

Murderer!
Stop
rationalizing!





Ms. May,
of all
people...

...I would
expect a former
S.H.I.E.L.D. agent known as
the Cavalry to recognize
that war entails
sacrifices.

You as well,
Black Widow.

Kid, I have no
idea who you are, but
I can tell when someone
who's never heard a shot
fired in anger talks like
he understands
war.

Vishte Taru,
Bucky. A Latverian
stray Tony saved
and took in.

You know,
I'm starting to think
the rich aren't actually
geniuses...

Wait...the
software update for the
Doom regime's phones...



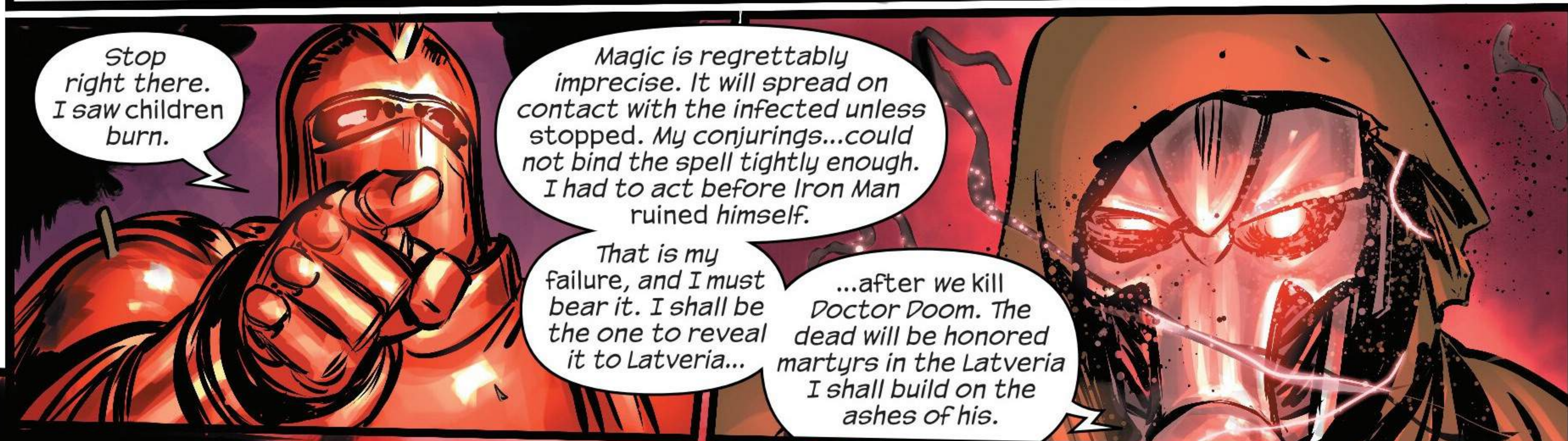
...did you somehow use
it to kill all those
people?

The phones
weren't the point.
What mattered was getting
the undetectable Iron Monger
magic onto Doom's servers.
Like how Justine Hammer
glitched Iron Man's armors.*

We routed
the magic to the army units
working with the LPF. The energy
drains from the inside...until the
body is living tinder, waiting
for the spark.

And I remind
you...these were
Doom's soldiers, before
they collaborated with a
racist terror group.

*In IRON MAN (2024)
Vol. 1 TPB on sale now!

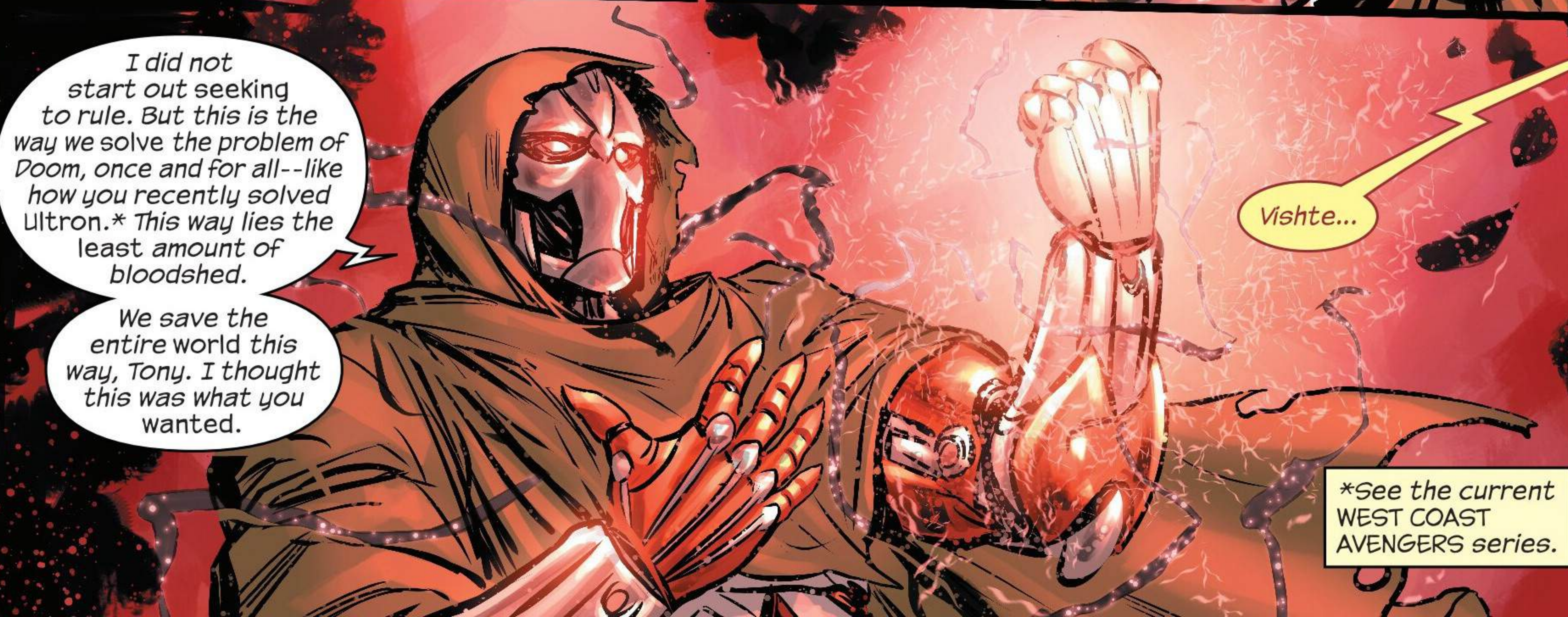


Stop
right there.
I saw children
burn.

Magic is regrettably
imprecise. It will spread on
contact with the infected unless
stopped. My conjurings...could
not bind the spell tightly enough.
I had to act before Iron Man
ruined himself.

That is my
failure, and I must
bear it. I shall be
the one to reveal
it to Latveria...

...after we kill
Doctor Doom. The
dead will be honored
martyrs in the Latveria
I shall build on the
ashes of his.

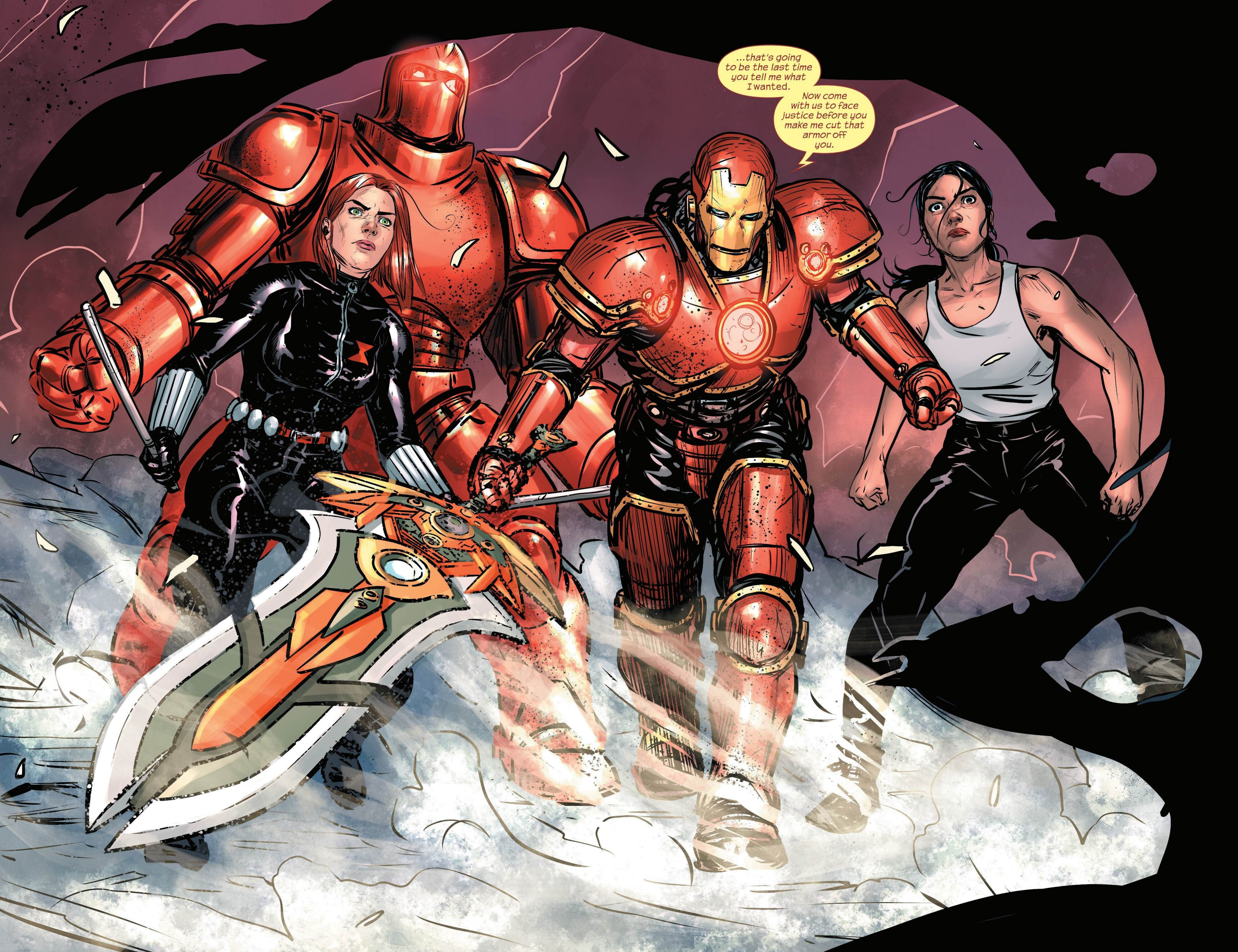


I did not
start out seeking
to rule. But this is the
way we solve the problem of
Doom, once and for all--like
how you recently solved
Ultron.* This way lies the
least amount of
bloodshed.

We save the
entire world this
way, Tony. I thought
this was what you
wanted.

Vishte...

*See the current
WEST COAST
AVENGERS series.



...that's going
to be the last time
you tell me what
I wanted.

Now come
with us to face
justice before you
make me cut that
armor off
you.

Iron Man, I--I don't want to fight you. Please!

I will commit to accountability, I promise you. After we kill Doom.

You're not listening, whoever you are.

You don't get options. You didn't give your victims any.

The blood on your hands means accountability comes n--

--OWWWWWWWW!!!

The Winter Soldier tells me that I have blood on my hands?

James!

Ahhhhhhh!!!

To oppose me is to save Doom.

Rrrrrr... I would never...

But right now...all I see... is a psychotic wizard... whose melted face is hidden behind armor...

...while he talks about... ruling Latveria.

You think I'm like Doom?!

You think fighting me avenges Latveria? Don't you see?



You should be standing with me!

ZZZZZ-VMMMMMMM

Vishte! I think I can see what you meant to do.

But you have to stop this right now. Or I won't be able to save you.

What?



I'm...I'm sorry... I don't want to fight you, I want to fight beside you...

Tony, what do you mean "save him"?!

We're very far past what Vishte "meant to do."

I know! But he thought he was doing what I wanted.

I set a tone. One I should have realized...



...would lead a desperate young man to think *anything* was permissible against Doom.

It has to be me who stops him. And he'll listen to me.



Please don't say such things, Tony...

First time I've agreed with Junior-Varsity Victor Von Doom here.

Bucky, enough. Vishte, I've felt the magic coursing through you in the Iron Monger.



Now, without it... I can see clearly that it's like going on a bender.



It feels dark right now. But there's help on the other side of this.

And the first step there is to accept responsibility for what you've d--



You--you pity me! You're not willing to *finish* what we started!

I kept your hands clean, Iron Man!

How perfect...



...we wouldn't want to sully such a major deal.

You!

Belasco?!

...Is that Doctor Druid?

What's this guy mean, Tony?!

Come...



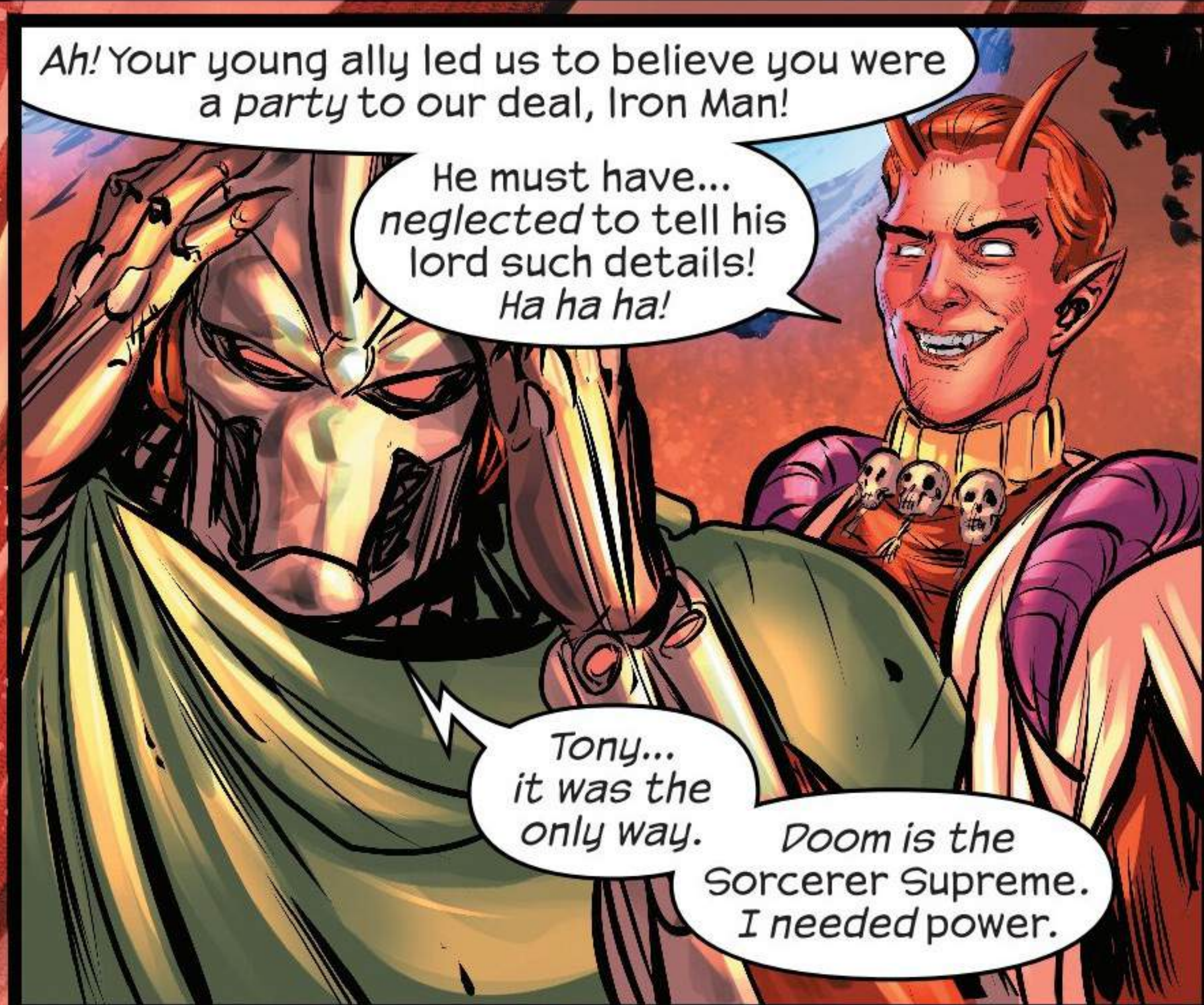
LIMBO.

...let me show you.

Wha--this is the Hell dimension where Belasco took the Stark board!

Look at that, Tony. Your plan literally went to Hell.

Buck, stop helping. Vishte, what is Belasco talking about?



Ah! Your young ally led us to believe you were a party to our deal, Iron Man!

He must have... neglected to tell his lord such details! Ha ha ha!

Tony... it was the only way.

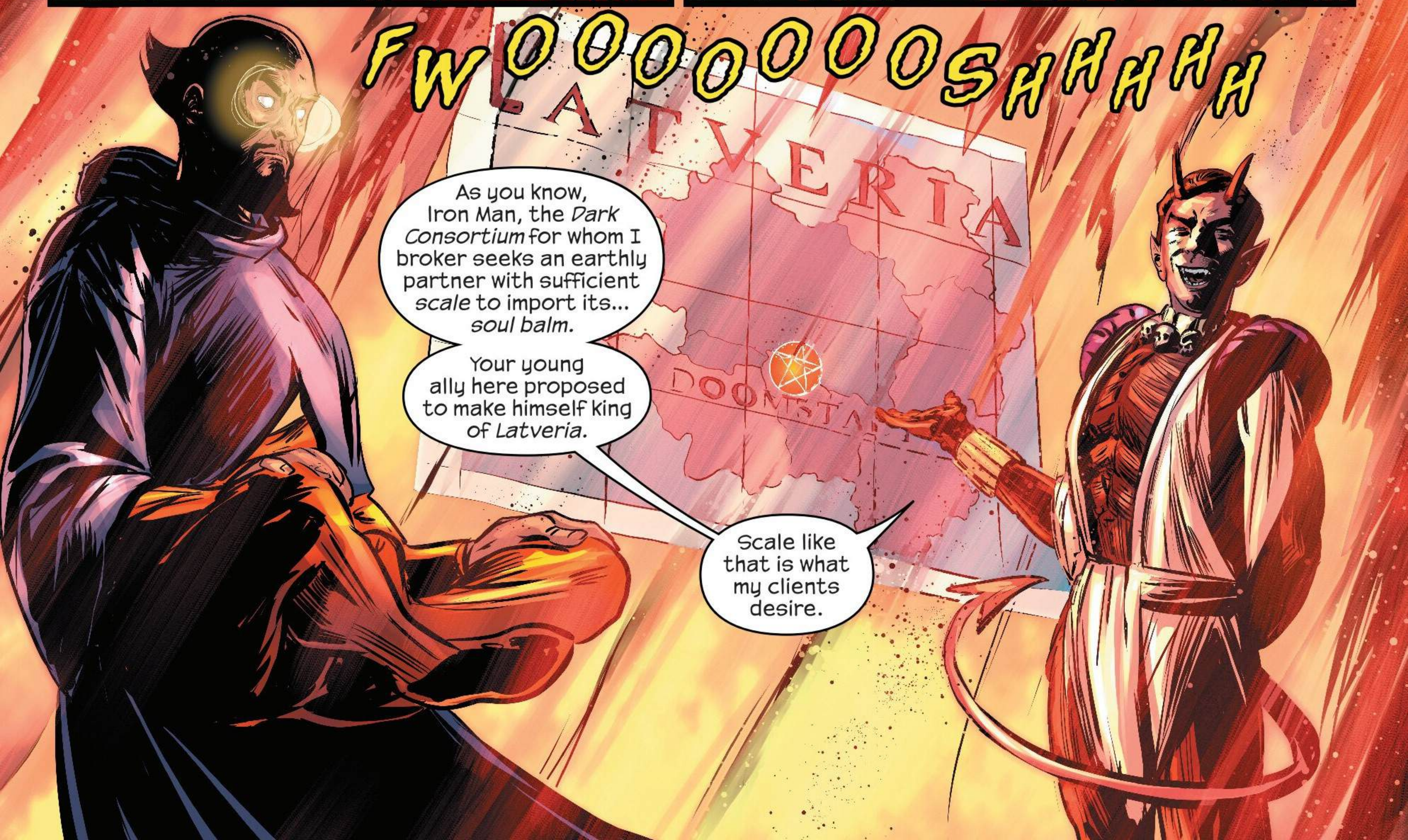
Doom is the Sorcerer Supreme. I needed power.



And just like that need drove you to graft Iron Monger parts onto your Improvised armor...

Vishte, what did you do?!

Thrall! Load the prospectus inferna!

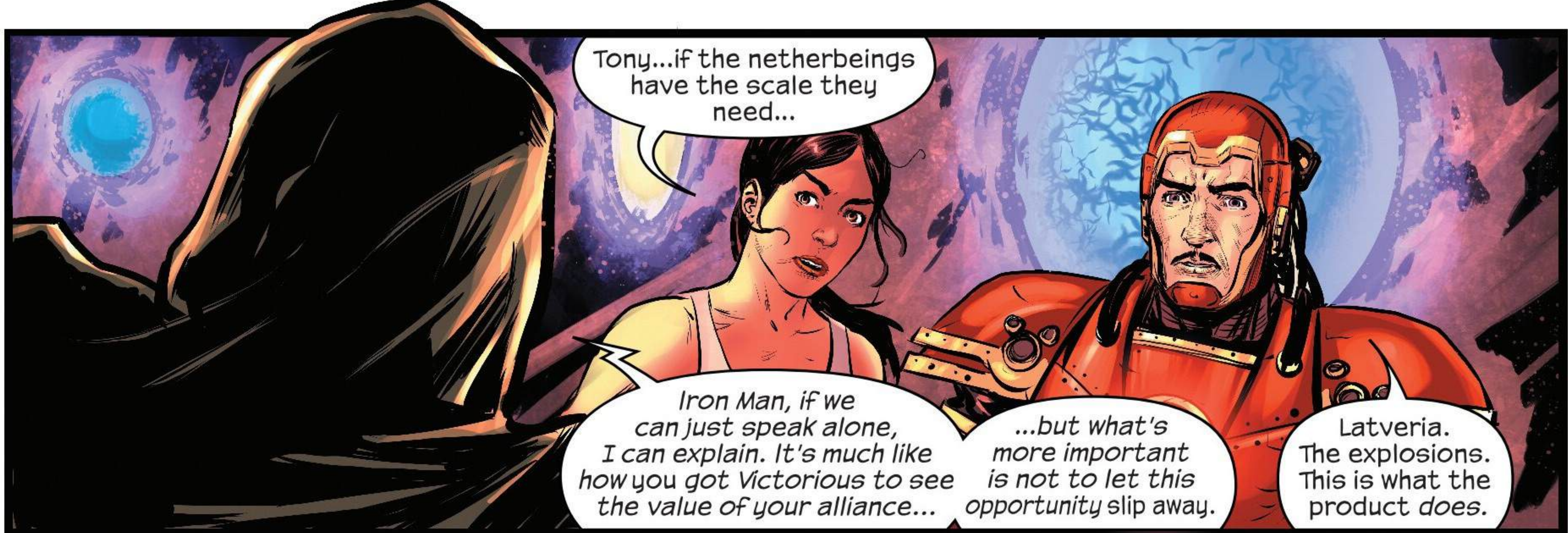


FWOOOOOOOSH HHHHH

As you know, Iron Man, the Dark Consortium for whom I broker seeks an earthly partner with sufficient scale to import its... soul balm.

Your young ally here proposed to make himself king of Latveria.

Scale like that is what my clients desire.



Tony...if the netherbeings have the scale they need...

Iron Man, if we can just speak alone, I can explain. It's much like how you got Victorious to see the value of your alliance...

...but what's more important is not to let this opportunity slip away.

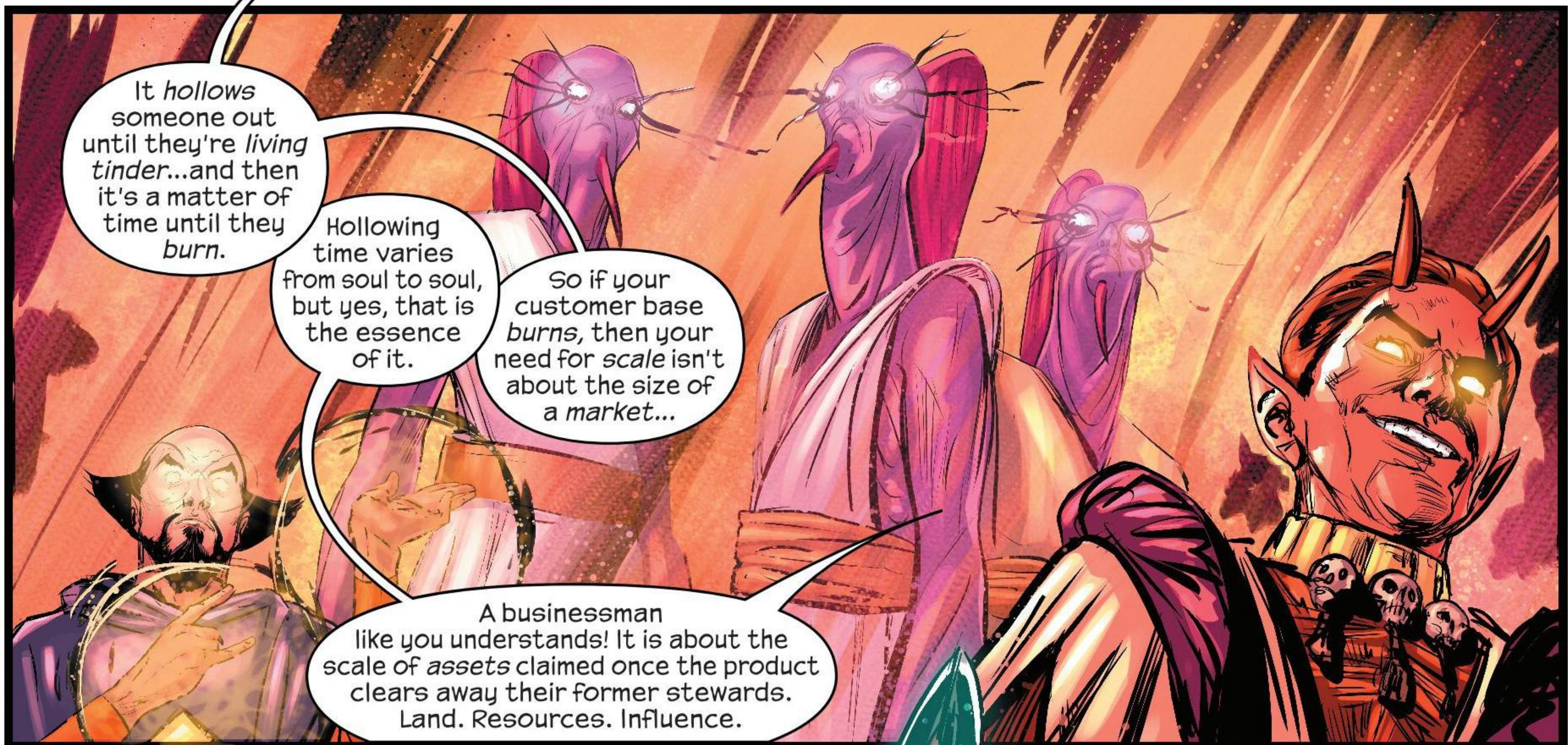
Latveria. The explosions. This is what the product does.



What?

Not you. You keep your mouth shut for now.

Belasco. Your infernal clients' product. It does what we saw it do in Latveria, doesn't it?



It hollows someone out until they're living tinder...and then it's a matter of time until they burn.

Hollowing time varies from soul to soul, but yes, that is the essence of it.

So if your customer base burns, then your need for scale isn't about the size of a market...

A businessman like you understands! It is about the scale of assets claimed once the product clears away their former stewards. Land. Resources. Influence.



Now, Vishte Taru...shall we discuss timelines for delivery?

We are so close, Tony. And the window to strike against Doom is closing...

You didn't just kill all those people...you sold the survivors to a demonic version of private equity...

Tony, please... you're seeing what scale means all wr--

No!!!

KRAK!

BOOOOOOOOOOM

HAHAHAHA! Settle this amongst yourselves across the many realms of Limbo!



What a flawless plan, Vishte!

Stop! I won't tell you again!

I don't want to do this to you!

You think you can hold the Dark Consortium at bay? You couldn't even stop their spells from spreading!

So many of those you killed didn't die to stop Doom! They died because you didn't know what you were doing!

You...you would have condemned so many more to die in missile fire! I saved you from having to live with that!

I took the curse of the Iron Monger so you wouldn't have to!

I believed in you!

For the first time... I finally saw someone with real power redistribute it... to those who need it! Fusing principle, purpose and resources into a sword at the enemy's throat--

--only for you to turn around and save Doom?!?!?

As you lay in this Hell for eternity, reflect upon your mistakes. Even without the Iron Monger, you could have upgraded your armor and withstood me.

You could have fought beside me. I never wanted it to end this way.

It just has to go flawlessly... or everyone in Latveria dies! With the rest of the world to follow!

You think you can kill Doom? Not even Dormammu could!*

The people I killed?!

...Username... Goodbyeeee--

I didn't...hrm... upgrade...the Improved armor...

...because I put all the upgrades into the sword.

*See ONE WORLD UNDER DOOM #5!

KRRRRRR-
BOOOOOOOOOOO



Ahhhh...
Uhhhh...

Ooooff...

What is the
meaning of
this?!



Tony! What
happened to your
armor?

Belasco! Let
us out of here!

We gave
you power...and
you could not
even kill your
mentor?

That'll
teach him not
to idolize
billionaires.

Iron Man!
This is the *second*
time you have cost us
business! There shall
not be a third!



Your
soul shall be
recompense
this time!

Try it,
middleman...



And I
wanted to beat
the &%\$# out
of you *before* you
locked me up. I'm
not usually this
lucky.

...my
Repulsword
is still charged
with a lot of
your clients'
power.

Druid...talk some
sense into Belasco
before I start cutting
out middlemen.



Ah...

Yes. I
understand.

Your clients
have a *message*
for you, master.
Take the orb.



Yes...
I obey...

Iron Man...
'ere last we met,
you convinced *my*
clients of your
influence. They mean to
do business with you.
Eventually.

I would
encourage you to
disabuse the Consortium
of that prospect.



You misunderstand. Your consent is
not necessary for a partnership
to flourish.

For now,
however...
Thrall...

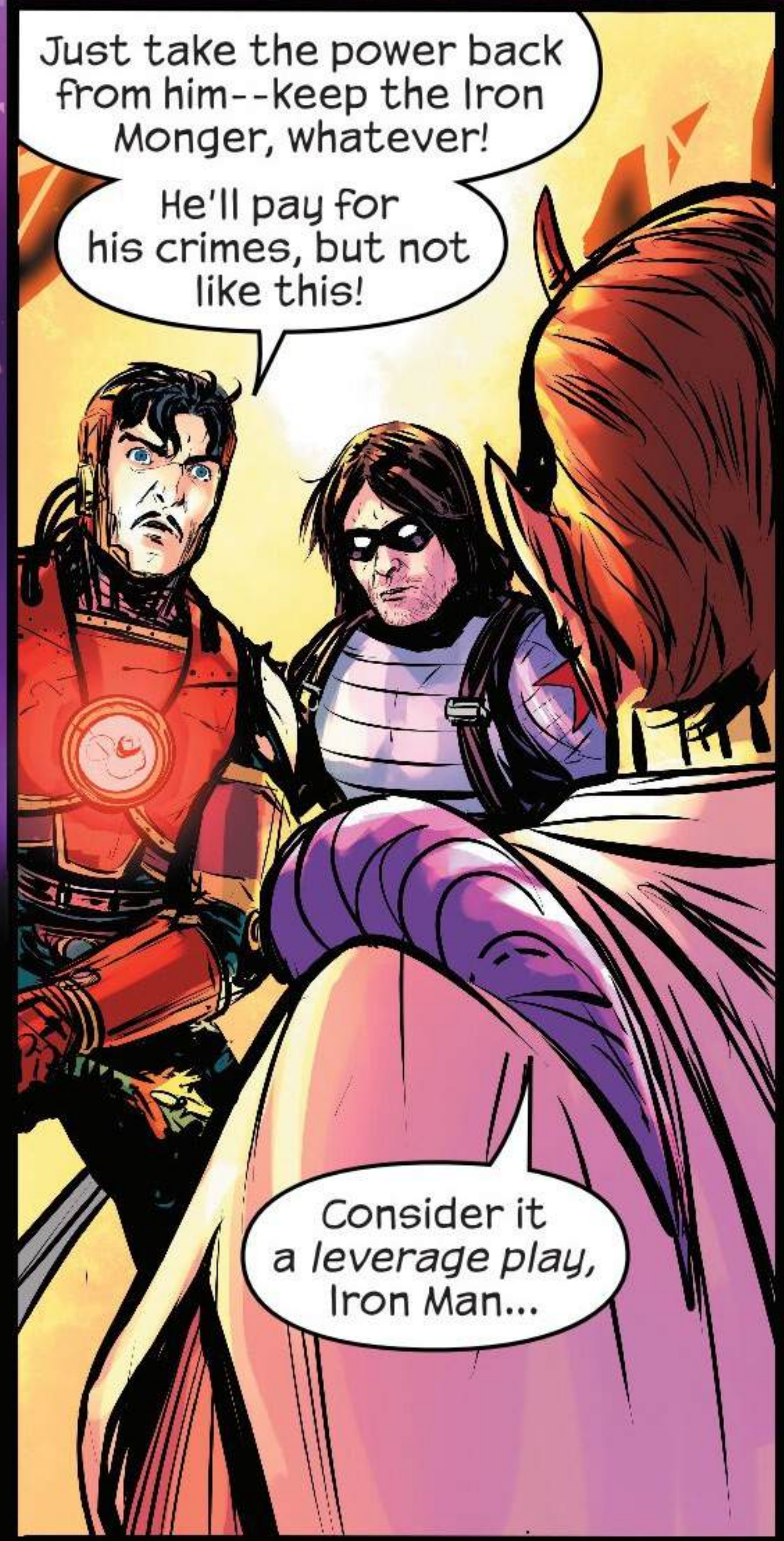


...bind
young
Vishte.



Hnnnnf!

Belasco,
no!



Just take the power back
from him--keep the Iron
Monger, whatever!

He'll pay for
his crimes, but not
like this!

Consider it
a leverage play,
Iron Man...



...for when next
we contact you, we
will have something
to trade.

What a
prosperous
collaboration we
shall have.

Vishte! I'll--
I'll find a way to
get you out of
there!

How
dare you,
Iron Man?!

I will
escape this
Hell my own
way!

And on
that day...the
Iron Monger will
kill you and
Doom alike.



We'll *catch up* with
you, Iron Man...your
demons always do!
Hahahaha...

Druid... Whatever
Belasco's doing
to you, fight it.
We won't forget
about you.

Nat, I need to be
alone for a while...
All this scheming,
Tony, all this
death...

"...and you still have to deal with *Doom*."

**STARK TOWER.
LATER.**

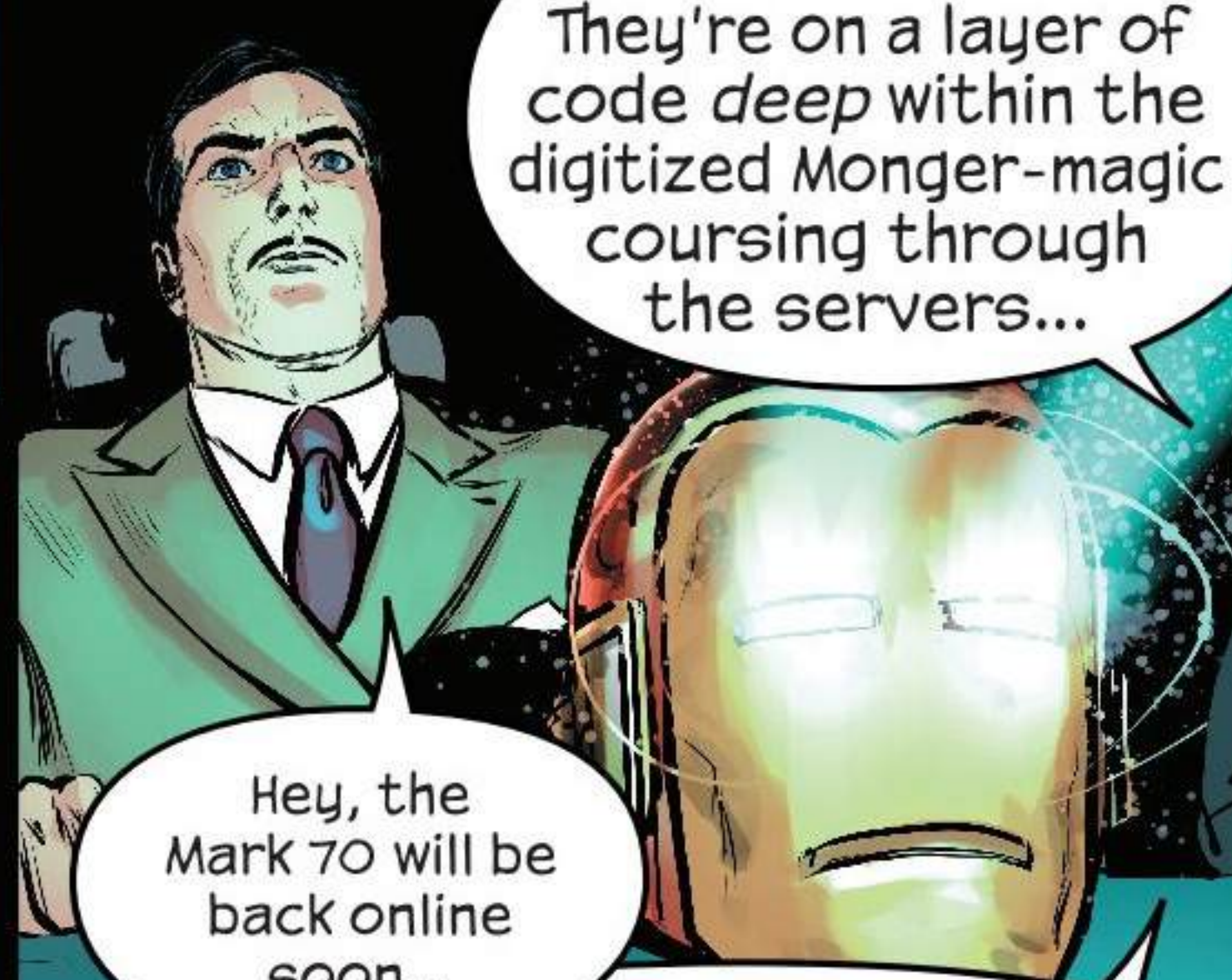
You think it can work?

I couldn't tell you *how*, exactly, but I do.



The Iron Monger ate the dark spells that glitched all your armors...

...but it didn't *digest* them.



They're on a layer of code deep within the digitized Monger-magic coursing through the servers...

Hey, the Mark 70 will be back online soon...

...and that means we can *extract* this undetectable magic malware...

...and put it on *Doom's* servers after he green-lights all the Stark Unlimited infrastructure contracts. Maybe the *Scarlet Witch* can help out again.

Then you did it, Melinda. You made our Plan B against Emperor Doom viable.

Isn't this better corporate security than busting the heads of our *employees*?

Come on, enough. I'm unlearning a lot of S.H.I.E.L.D. attitudes about organized labor, okay?

The S.T.R.I.K.E. B.R.E.A.K.E.R.S. are disbanded. I dealt with them *personally*.

Now let's keep the main thing the *main thing*...



"...a lot depends on how you perform in this meeting."

Victor. I got here early and of course you got here earlier.

Stark. Even as a supplicant, you cannot summon the respect to style me your emperor.





Sorry, I thought you'd rather stand on business than ceremony. Like our expanded *production capacity* across the suite of Stark ballistic, cruise and loitering missiles. I'll send you that data after this call.

First, I'd like to show you how our arc reactors provide *unparalleled capacitance* as a power solution for semiconductor fabrication.

Enough. Your indignities compound...



...waving around your potency as if it should entice me.

Are you no longer interested in *empire-building*? That would have made my last several weeks much easier.

I thought *Victorious* informed you of our--



No, Stark. You should have heeded the *Lady Victorious*.

Of course I could never trust Iron Man to be a partner in my regime.

Nor would I cheapen my new era by installing a pillar of the old.



...Your Emperorness, I hope *Victorious* conveyed that such a decision may compel certain military clients of mine to test your reign. People could--

Let them. The *Pax Victoris* is an honor to defend. To rule is to make examples of challengers.

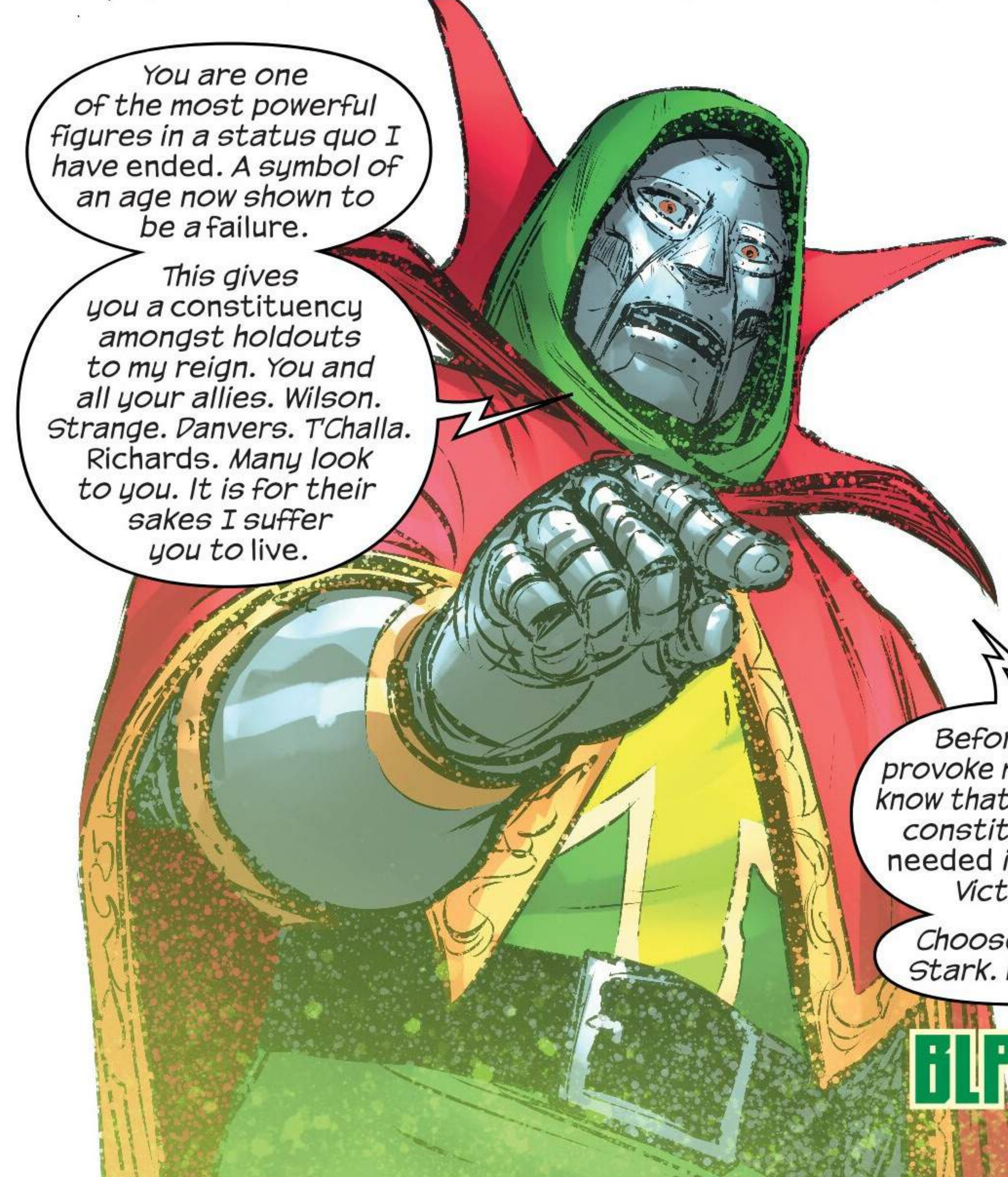
And do not speak to me of people's lives.



Very well. That leaves us back to the same question I posed *Victorious*.

What are we to each other?

You are what *Doom* says you are, Stark, and nothing more. For as long as *Doom* shall rule, Iron Man shall be ruled.



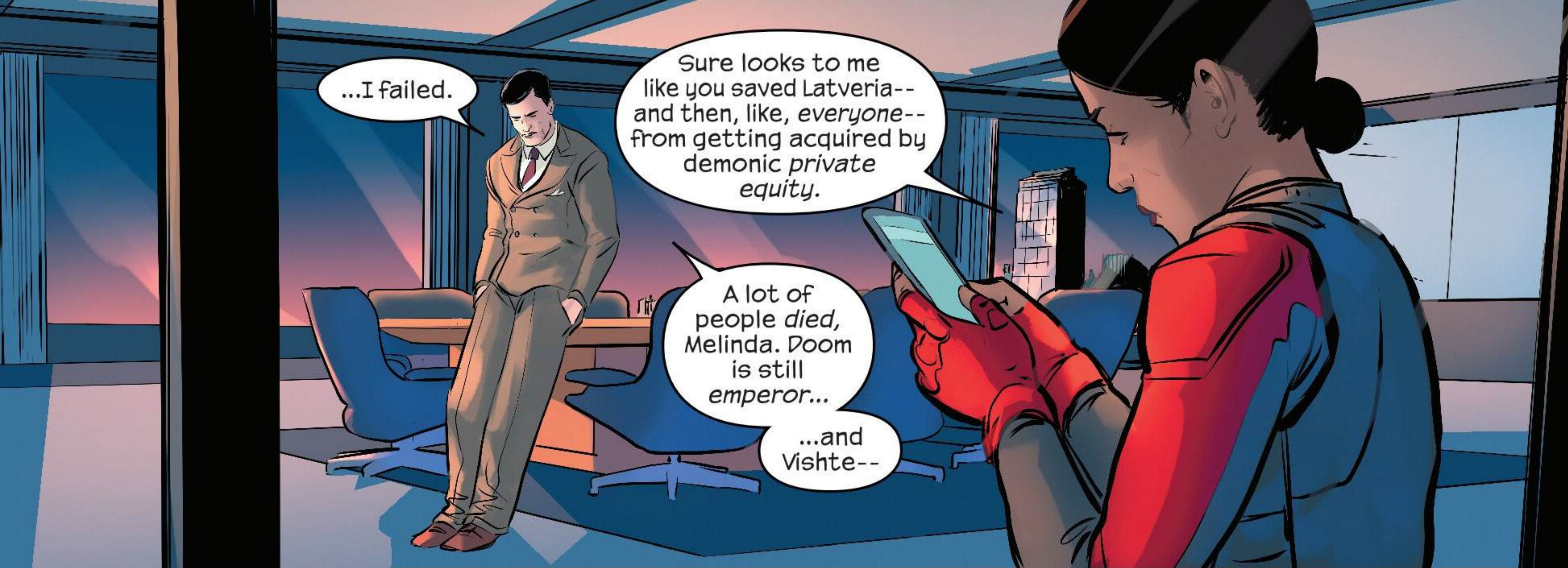
You are one of the most powerful figures in a status quo I have ended. A symbol of an age now shown to be a failure.

This gives you a constituency amongst holdouts to my reign. You and all your allies. Wilson. Strange. Danvers. T'Challa. Richards. Many look to you. It is for their sakes I suffer you to live.

Before you provoke me again... know that not every constituency is needed in the *Pax Victoris*.

Choose wisely, Stark. Farewell.

BLPPPPP



...I failed.

Sure looks to me like you saved Latveria-- and then, like, *everyone*-- from getting acquired by demonic *private equity*.

A lot of people died, Melinda. Doom is still emperor...

...and Vishte--

Vishte made his choice. You didn't make it for him. He doesn't get to say that the *hypothetical deaths* he claims you would have caused outweigh the *real people* he killed.

Trust me, at S.H.I.E.L.D. we used to put out a lot of those narratives.

No, that's the thing, Melinda. I told myself I could *manage* being...

...well, an *Iron Monger* again. In more ways than one. Just a little this time. I could handle it.

But I couldn't. Vishte was *right* about what my missiles would do.

This *has* to be the last time we make weapons.

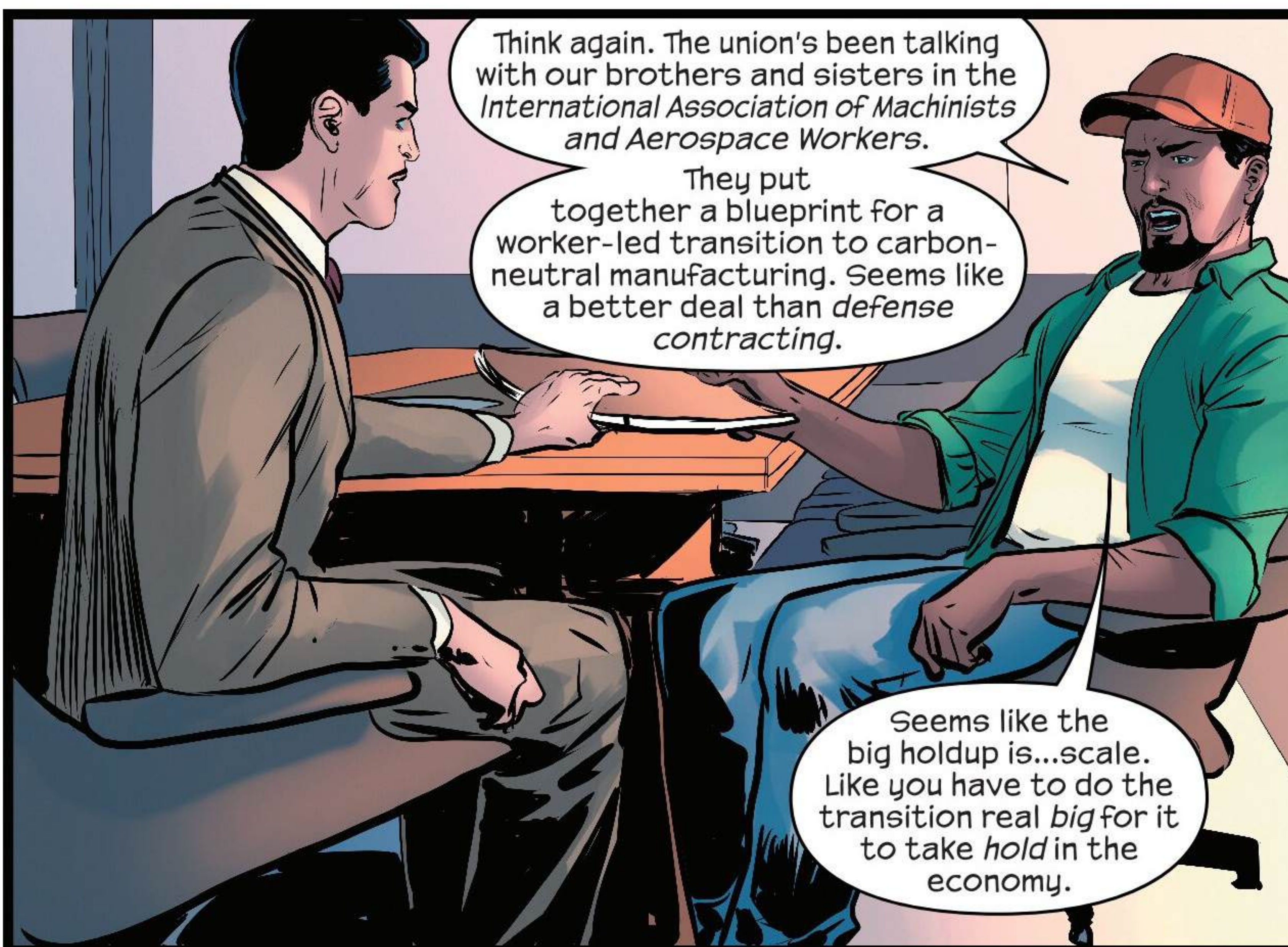
Yeah, actually...



...that's what I was hoping today's meeting can be about.

Ramon. I always have time for our newest board member.

But I don't think you or the union will like where I want to take the company.



Think again. The union's been talking with our brothers and sisters in the *International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers*.

They put together a blueprint for a worker-led transition to carbon-neutral manufacturing. Seems like a better deal than defense contracting.

Seems like the big holdup is...scale. Like you have to do the transition real *big* for it to take *hold* in the economy.



And if there's one thing Stark Unlimited has, it's *scale*, right?

Why not us?

Yeah. Us--



--this way, we'll offer a better deal than Doom. Or what he replaced.

I'll draw up the transition plan. The union will have it by Wednesday. Your plant can be the first fabricator for our new *Stark Semiconductor* division.

VTT VTT

Hey, one second? This is a friend and I need to take this.

No worries...

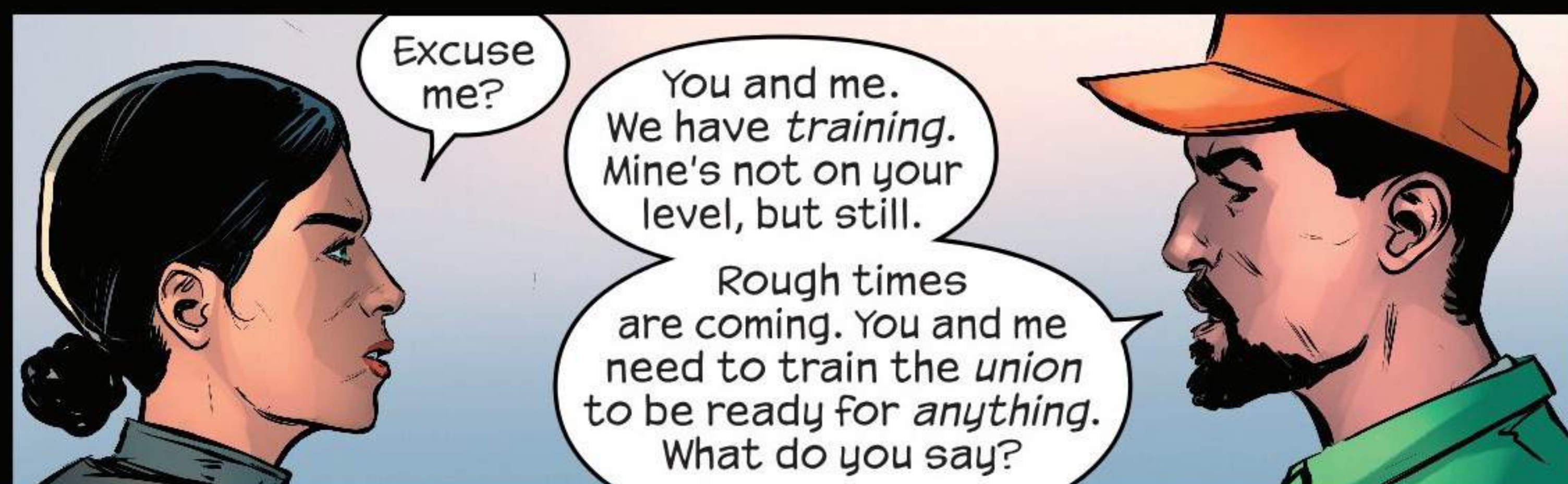


...you and me need to *talk*, Ms. May.

Look--like I told Tony, you can have my resignation.

Hey. One second...

Nah, you feeling guilty does nothing for us. I got a *proposal* for you.



Excuse me?

You and me. We have *training*. Mine's not on your level, but still.

Rough times are coming. You and me need to train the *union* to be ready for *anything*. What do you say?



I say... *solidarity* forever.

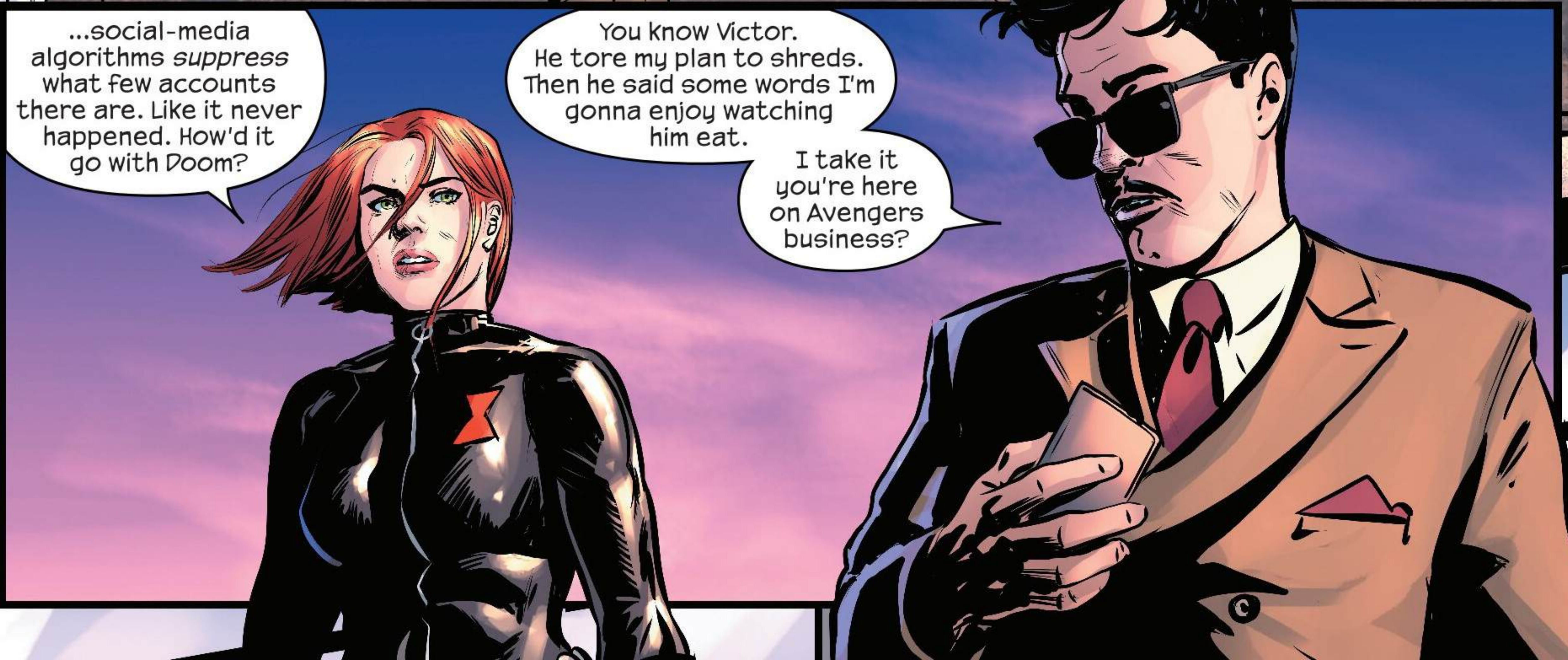
There it is. *Red Cavalry*. Let's \$#!% go.



You probably monitor accounts that I don't. Have you seen *any* reports on the Latveria explosions?

That's the thing. Even with the *Dome* still up...

CLM



...social-media algorithms *suppress* what few accounts there are. Like it never happened. How'd it go with Doom?

You know Victor. He tore my plan to shreds. Then he said some words I'm gonna enjoy watching him eat.

I take it you're here on Avengers business?



Nah. I just wanted to see my friend on what I knew would be a hard day.

Thank you.
Thank you for everything, Nat. You were right all along and I wouldn't listen.

You were angry and determined to stop the evil man who conquered the world. It's not like I can't relate.

Thank me by sticking to the plan Maria Hill came up with.*

So sworn. It'll be Avengers united against Doom. Until his empire falls.

*See ONE WORLD UNDER DOOM #6!



Only... your junkyard armor got turned into scrap. You can't fight Doom dressed like *this*.

I've still got the Silver Centurion armor. And it won't be long before the rest of my Iron Man suits are back online. The *Improvised* armor may be gone...

...but I think I'm gonna keep the *sword*.

**NEVER
THE END!**

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